

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

by Robert J. Baptista

With Photos by Darren Bryden and Commentary by Arnold Samuelsen



Elizabeth City Hall Then and Now

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**Third Edition 2018
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Publisher

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Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Introduction

I grew up in Elizabeth during the period 1944-1960, the third child of my parents Joseph and Viola Baptista. Dad was Portuguese and worked as a chemical operator; Mom was Italian and a seamstress in the local garment industry. We lived on South Street, across from St. Anthony's Church in the Peterstown section, one of several ethnic neighborhoods in the city. We later moved to Elmora and then to suburban Cranford. A career in the chemical industry led me to Orange, Texas, where I am now retired.

During a visit to my hometown in August 2010, a driving tour reminded me of Elizabeth's historical significance, dating to 1664, and the distinctive architecture of its landmark homes, schools, churches and parks. The factories in the Port, many now closed, recalled the industrial engine that once powered the city's economy, employing thousands of residents. There was a notable shift in the makeup of the population, with neighborhoods, restaurants and stores proudly displaying Hispanic and South American roots. Some of the old homes and public housing projects were gone, replaced with modern homes and apartment buildings. There were new schools; some of the old ones I attended had new names.

I decided to document these scenes, some unchanged over time, and others looking remarkably different, with photographs and historical commentary. The social network Facebook provided an opportunity to share this information publicly on the Internet and receive feedback and intriguing details from Elizabeth residents familiar with the topics. In the past few years I have posted many of these scenes on the Facebook pages "Elizabeth Speaks", "Elizabeth NJ's Elmora Section and Warinanco Park", "I Grew Up in Elizabeth, NJ", "Avenue AI", and "I Grew Up in Peterstown". The posts were compiled into a pictorial history titled *Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now*, first published in 2011.

In the last seven years, additional photos and historical information have been collected, allowing the publication of this larger and more comprehensive Third Edition. Many of the original photos have been replaced with better quality versions and text errors have been corrected.

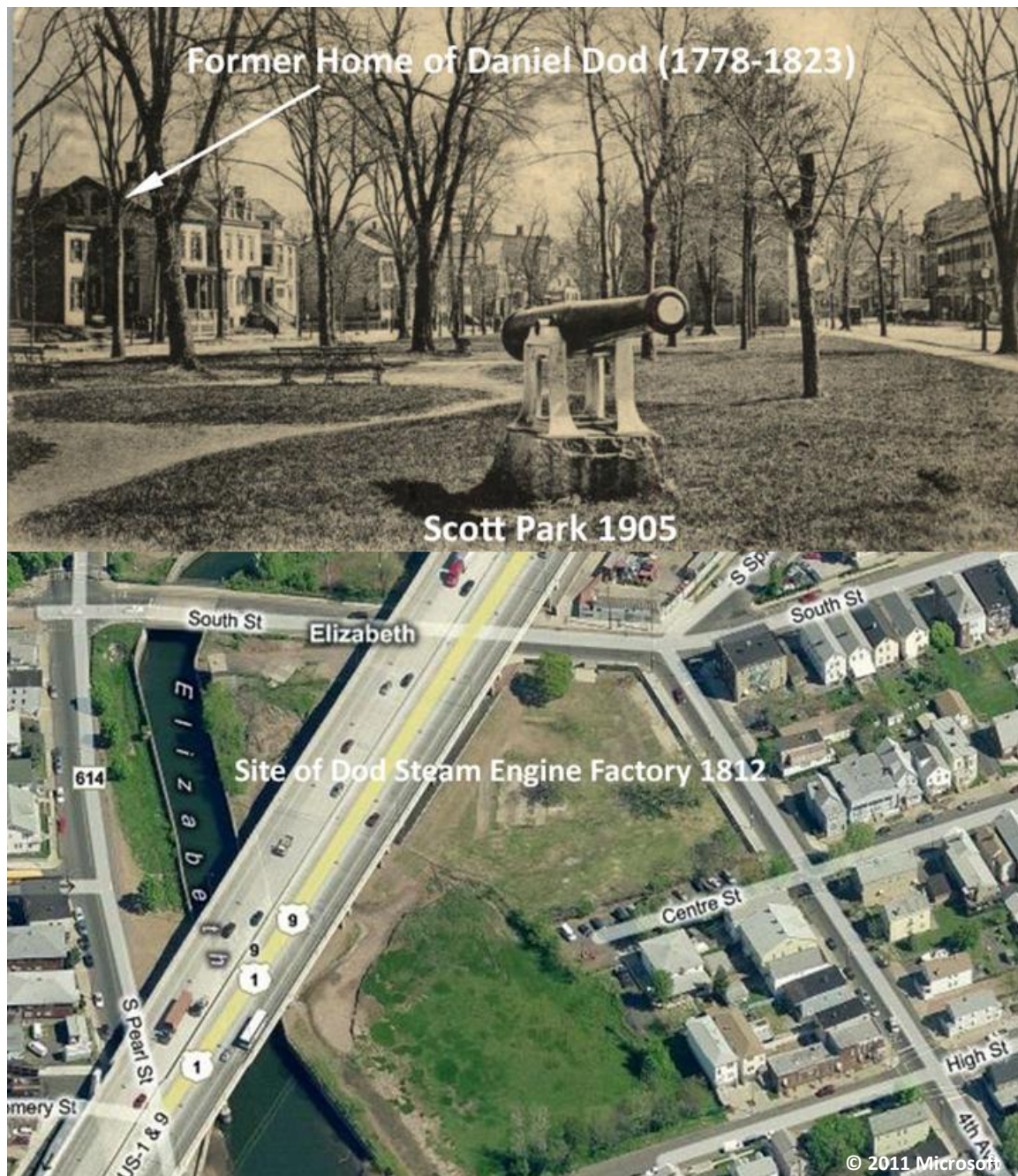
I am grateful to Darren Bryden for allowing the use of his unique photos of how Elizabeth looks today. I also thank Arnold Samuelsen for contributing excellent historical research on many topics.

I would like to acknowledge the inspirational book *Images of America: Elizabeth* by Jean-Rae Turner and Richard T. Koles, Arcadia Publishing, Dover, NH, 1996. There are many other books providing more complete historical information about Elizabeth; the reader can find the titles in the References section. The Historical Society of Elizabeth webpage "Visit Historical Elizabeth, NJ" online at link <http://www.visithistoricalelizabethnj.org/>, is especially recommended, with a helpful historical timeline of people and events and detailed histories of the development of some of Elizabeth's neighborhoods.

Robert J. Baptista
April 10, 2018

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1. Industry



Daniel Dod Home and Steam Engine Factory

Elizabeth's roots as a machinery manufacturing center can be traced back to the Dod Steam Engine Factory, established in 1812 on the Elizabeth River near the original site of the local gas works. Daniel Dod was a mechanical genius who built the steam engine for the Savannah, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic in 1819.

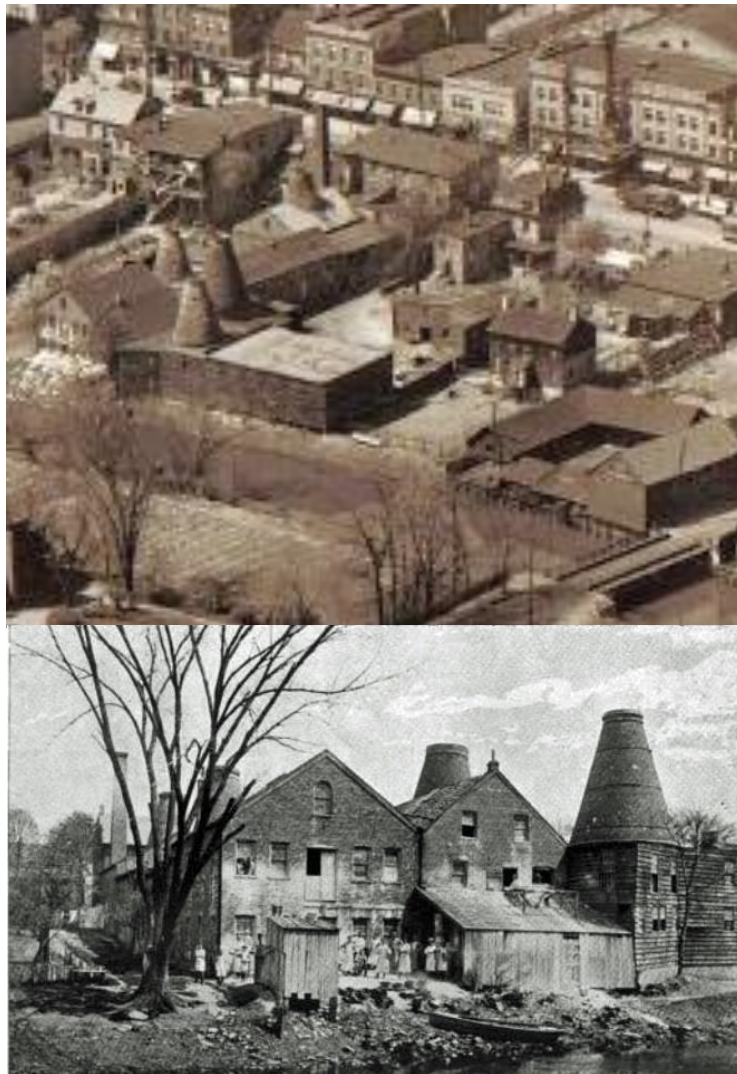
Dod was born in Virginia in 1778, the son of a maker of clocks and mathematical instruments. He married Nancy Squire of Mendham, NJ in 1802 and established a cotton mill there with his two older brothers. The mill failed, but

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in 1811 Col. Aaron Ogden (governor of New Jersey 1812-1813) encouraged Dod to move to Elizabethtown to design and construct the engine for his 71-ton passenger vessel, the Sea Horse in 1812. The Sea Horse operated as a ferry between Elizabethtown and New York City. Ogden was a silent partner in the Dod Steam Engine Factory.

After the failure of the Ogden business ventures, Dod moved to New York in 1820 where he continued building and repairing steam engines. He died in 1823 from the explosion of a boiler of the steamboat Patent, whose machinery he had been repairing while on a trip on the East River.

The Dod home on Scott Place was razed in 1913 to make way for a new Masonic Temple but the plan was abandoned and the Temple was built on North Broad St. The remaining homes on Scott Place were razed in the late 1920s for the construction of the Thomas Jefferson High School.

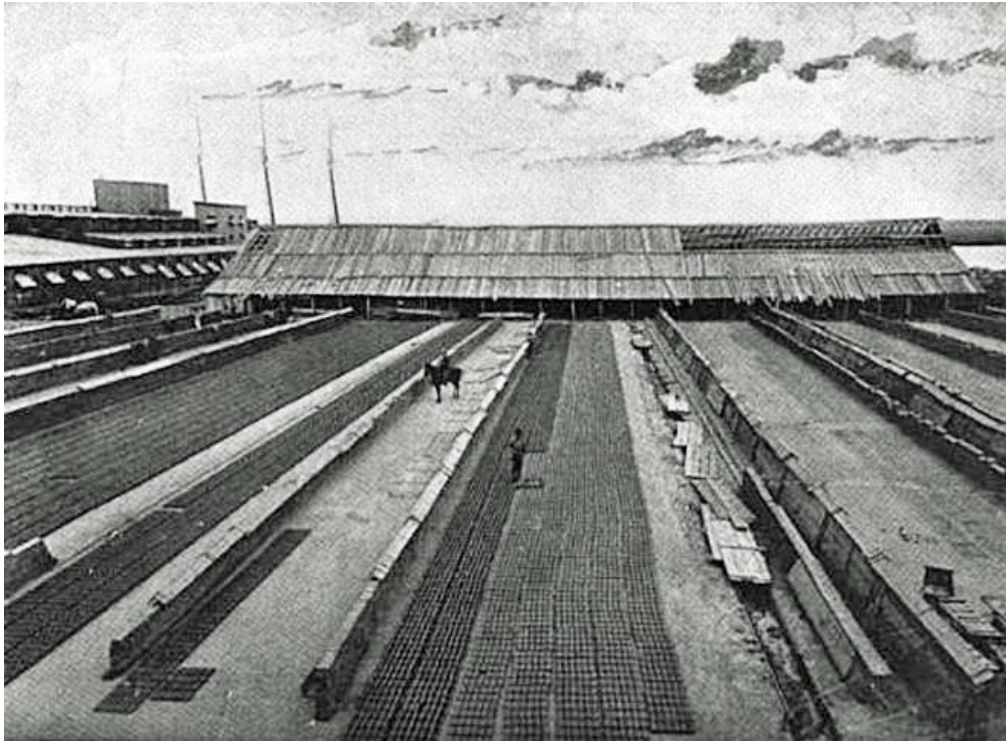


Beerbower Pottery Works along Elizabeth River

The pottery factory of L.B. Beerbower, shown in the top photo of 1923, was located at 1122-26 Elizabeth Ave. with the property extending to the Elizabeth River. The manufacture of red earthenware pottery began at the site in 1835 or possibly as early as 1811. The factory was one of the earliest manufacturers in Elizabethtown. It was later owned by Keen Pruden, who made yellow and Rockingham wares. He lived in a home opposite the factory at 613 Pearl St. His son John Mills Pruden eventually took over the business. In 1879 the business was acquired by Levi B.

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Beerbower, who expanded it with new buildings and kilns. He also added a line of decorated ware sold throughout the U.S., competing very well with imports. The factory employed 135 in 1889 when the bottom photo was taken. The site is now occupied by the Cellini Furniture Outlet and the El Salvadoreno restaurant.



Brickyard of James Carroll at Foot of Bayway

This 1889 photo shows the brickyard of James Carroll, which was established in 1850. Bricks were made from clay deposits on the 40 acre site which was located along the Arthur Kill about a quarter-mile south of the B & O Railroad bridge. The bricks were dried in the kiln in the rear of the photo. The annual production was six to eight million bricks, shipped by either rail or boat. Local deliveries to home and factory construction sites were made by horsedrawn wagons.

The firm employed up to 100 men. Nearby industries included a copper works, fertilizer plant, and an oil works.

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Refrigeration Warehouse at Former Site of Colwell Lead Co.

The Colwell Lead Co. was founded in 1850 by Lewis Colwell to manufacture lead goods and plumbing supplies. The main office was in New York City. The Elizabeth plant was located at 140 Bayway Ave. near Amboy Ave., a site of 12 acres. The firm manufactured kitchen sinks, laundry tubs, and porcelain-enameled cast iron bathtubs and toilets. This company ad from 1912 is typical of an era when smokestack industries were viewed as a sign of progress.

A violent strike took place in 1911 when the company laid off some union molders. Shots were fired by strikers and strike breakers, wounding a man and a boy. A bomb exploded near a wagon carrying strike breakers to the plant. The strike was over in about a month and none of the union strikers were taken back.

In 1915 the plant was purchased by the American Enameling Co. which planned to continue the manufacture of sanitary fixtures and erect new buildings for the manufacture of cast iron pipe and fittings. In the same year, 75

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employees struck, seeking an increase of the daily wage from \$1.85 to \$2.00 a day, which the company refused to grant.

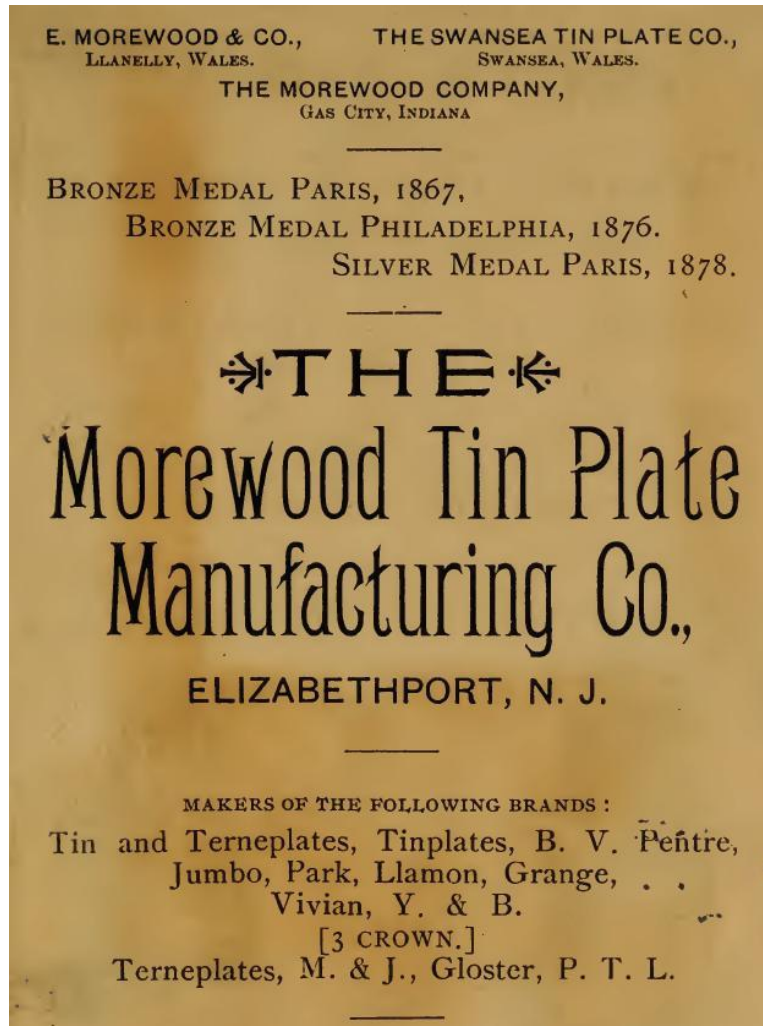
The company went out of business some years later and the site was used by other industrial concerns such as the Reichold Chemical Co. The former contaminated site became a brownfield redevelopment project for a refrigerated 470,000 square foot warehouse. Nearby residents certainly have cleaner air to breathe compared to the days when the Colwell Lead Co. operated there.



The Magnolia Metal Co., also known as the Bayway Smelting Co., was located at 120 Bayway near Amboy Ave. in the early 1900s. The foundry smelted lead, made solder and ingots of nickel and other metals. It operated in Elizabeth at least until 1950.

The EPA and state agencies did little in recent years to study the toxic fallout left behind by old lead factories. In the case of Magnolia Metal, it is unclear if neighboring residential yards were ever investigated for lead contamination. The factory site adjoined the Reichold Chemical Co. which was cleaned up. Today a refrigeration warehouse caps both the Magnolia Metal and Reichold sites. Most of the nearby homes were recently demolished to make way for the new bridge to Staten Island that will replace the Goethals Bridge.

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1893 Ad for Morewood Tin Plate Company

Tin plates, pots and utensils became available in the late 19th century and were largely imported from Great Britain. U.S. manufacturers were helped by the McKinley tariff of 1891, designed to protect domestic production and discourage imports.

This situation led the British based Morewood Company to establish tin plate manufacture in Elizabethport in 1892. A 3-acre site was located along the waterfront on property earlier used by the Carroll brickyard. This was about a half-mile south of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad bridge to Staten Island. Morewood built rudimentary production buildings by bolting together corrugated iron sheets. Production began in December 1892 with about 100 men and women employed.

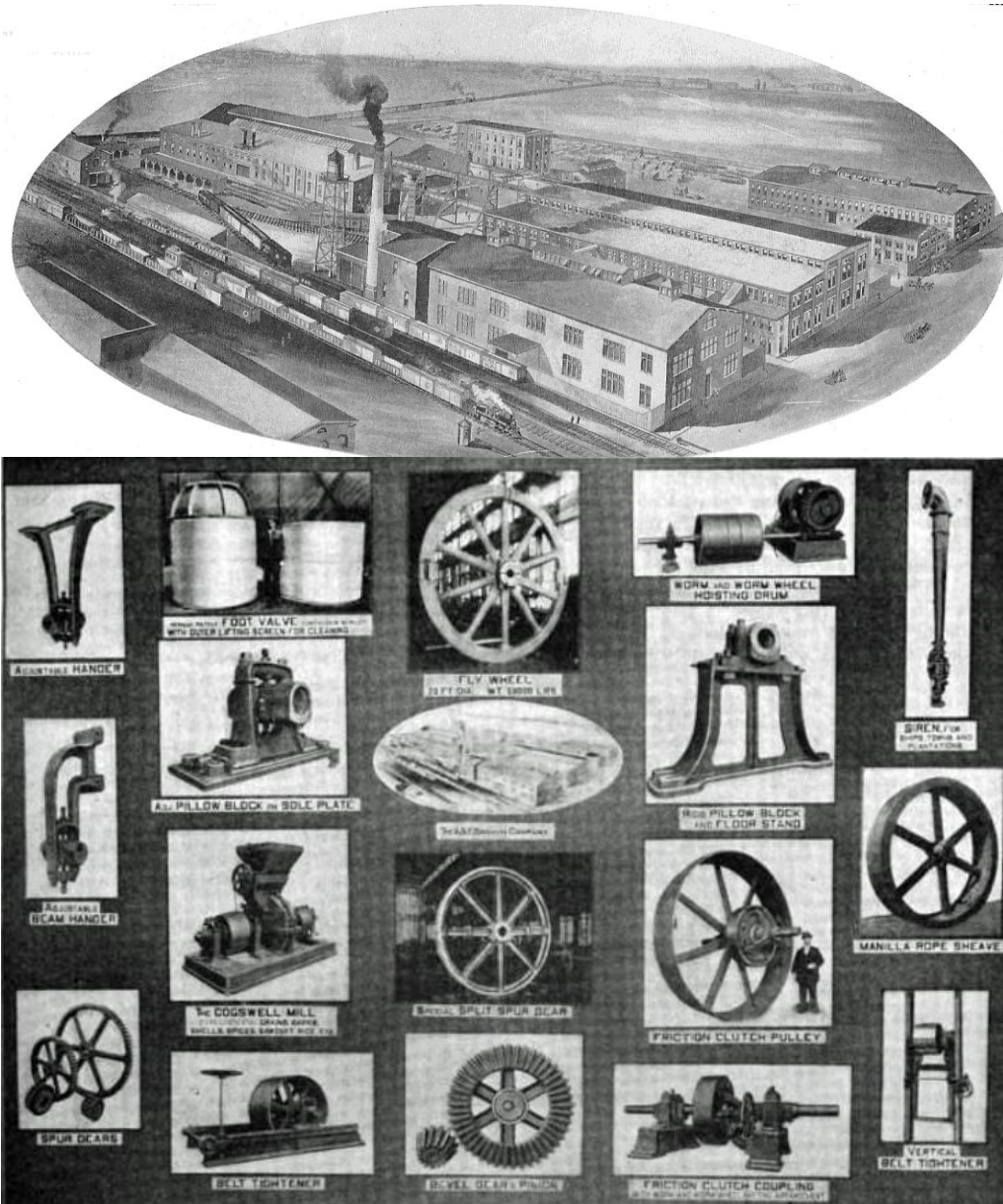
George B. Morewood, the head of the Elizabethport company, with an office at 132 Front St. in New York, died in October 1892 during construction of the plant. He was 82. His brother John R. Morewood (1821-1903) and his son William B. Morewood (1848-1923) lived in a mansion at 135 Westfield Ave.

Workers went on strike in 1893 over their claim of being paid "starvation wages". The strike was quickly settled with some of the worker demands met.

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The plant abruptly closed in late 1893. Employment had dwindled to 40 workers. Some of the workers went back to Wales and others transferred to the Morewood tin plate factory in Gas City, Indiana. The iron buildings were dismantled and shipped to Gas City along with the machinery.

The Elizabethport site is now occupied by the Phelps-Dodge copper products company.



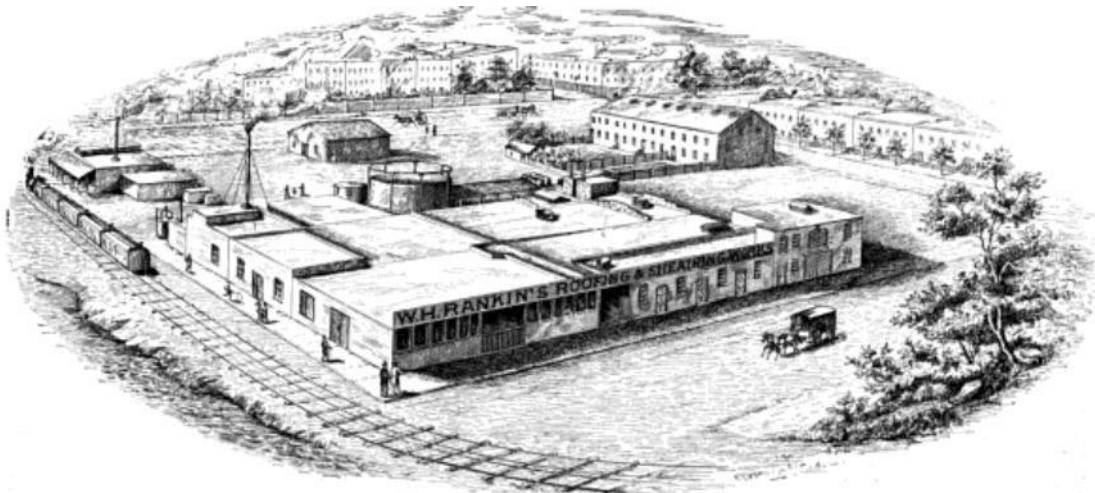
A. & F. Brown Co. on Third St.

One of Elizabeth's earliest foundries was the A. & F. Brown Co., established in 1855 on Third St. by Adolph and Felix Brown. The company had three buildings and employed 30 men at that time. Iron castings were machined into power transmission equipment including shaft drives, friction clutches, pulleys, gears and fly wheels. The factory had both rail and ship service, needed to transport parts as large as a fly wheel 20 foot in diameter and weighing 59,000 lbs. The Cogswell Mill, for grinding grain, was sold in the U.S. and abroad.

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In 1915 fifty laborers, earning an average \$1.70 per day, struck for higher wages. They demanded wages for machinists at \$2.50, helpers at \$2.25 and laborers at \$2.00. They returned to work with no gains. Strikes in nearby plants took place at the same time, attributed to "Socialist agitation" as reported in the New York Times.

By 1897 the business was flourishing and employed 250 skilled mechanics. The firm eventually closed and the site was sold in 1937. Charles Brown, former president, died in 1940.



W. H. RANKIN'S ROOFING AND SHEATHING WORKS, SOUTH FRONT STREET—GENERAL VIEW OF WORKS.



RESIDENCE OF MR. WM. H. RANKIN, 214 ELIZABETH AVENUE.



Top: W. H. Rankin Co. 1889. Bottom: Rankin Home on Elizabeth Ave. 1889 and Today

William H. Rankin founded a roofing materials plant on South Front St. and Elizabeth Ave. in 1873. The business became one of the largest suppliers of roofing and sheathing in the U.S. and abroad. The products included resin-sized and oiled sheathing, painted felt, roofing pitch, liquid roof paint, and tarred multi-ply roofing. Rankin held patents for the machinery and processes used for some of these products. On the Elizabeth Ave. side of the factory was a row of company owned brick houses for workers. Rankin's residence was only a few blocks away, at the corner of Elizabeth Ave. and Geneva St., which remains today. He was active in community affairs and served on the board of several organizations. He retired to Florida where he died in 1919.

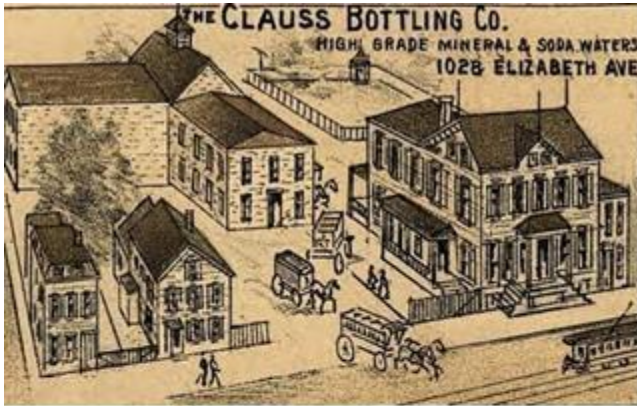
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Johnson Machinery Co. on Elizabeth Ave.

This derelict ivy covered building is at 90 Elizabeth Ave., corner of South First St. It appears on a 1922 Sanborn map as part of the Barrett Co. which made roofing paper. The plant was earlier known as the Rankin Roofing Co. In 1960 the facility was taken over by the Johnson Machinery Co. of Newark, for the sale of used machinery for the plastic and rubber industries. This is prime real estate but perhaps environmental issues are preventing redevelopment.

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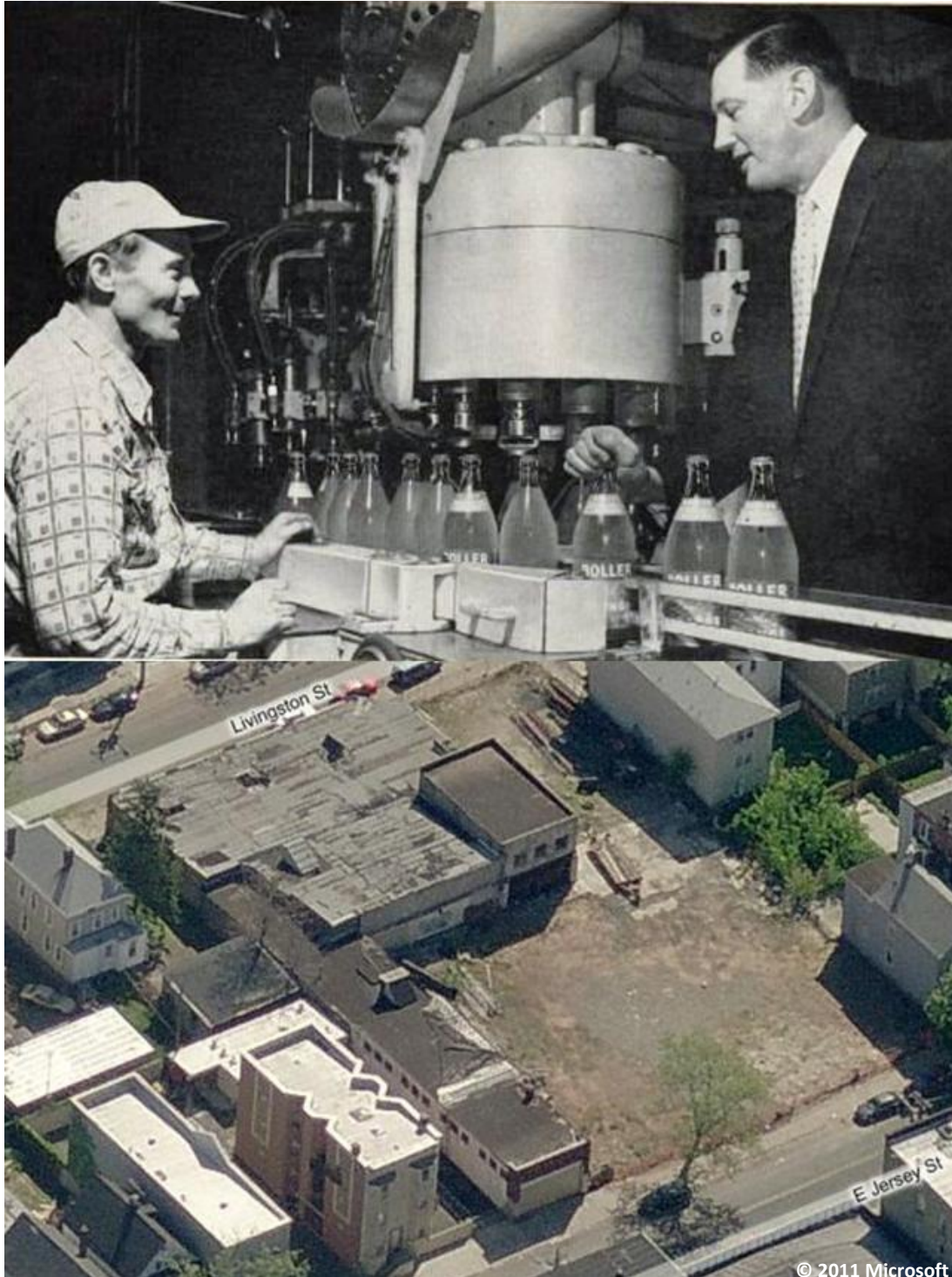
Standard Lumber on Elizabeth Ave. Former Site of Clauss Bottling Co.

The Clauss Bottling Co. produced high quality mineral and soda waters at 1028 Elizabeth Ave. The firm was founded by George Clauss around 1867. The photo of the business at top right was taken in 1889. The location today is occupied by Standard Lumber. The Route 1/9 viaduct is on the left of the bottom photo.

A former Elizabeth resident told me "The only physical evidence of the bottling works that I have is a bottle embossed with their name and an advertising blotter. I remember the works at 1028 Elizabeth Ave. went bankrupt in 1938. My grandfather took me into the works when I was a youngster to show me the office where he worked. I recall seeing horses and the big house dining hall which was used to feed the workers, sort of a benefit, as the owners treated their help as family. The Clauss family was very large, many lived together in that house as adults. George Clauss, the owner, lived in a house on nearby Prospect St. that is still there. In the late 1930s there was a farmers market adjacent to the Clauss Works, under the Rt. 1 viaduct as I remember.

The bottling works was established on the site when a Clauss family member discovered an exceptionally fine well on that property. They had emigrated from Alsace, just before the Civil War began, intending to resume a mineral water bottling business, then went into flavored soda water following the Hoffman's Ginger Ale popularity. The Clauss claim to fame was that they used ONLY natural flavorings, scorned the Coca Cola product, and if the depression had not done them in, Coke and Hoffman would have."

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Boller Beverage Co. on East Jersey St.

The Boller Beverage Co., located at 441 East Jersey St., produced soda of various flavors for many years. The top photo, from an ad in the June 1956 American Soft Drink Journal, shows General Manager Jim Sidie talking to filling operator Michael Meglis.

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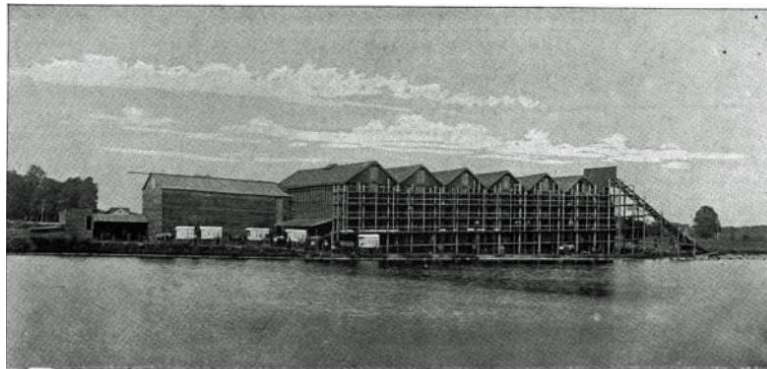
The company was established in 1886 by Frank X. Boller, a native of Germany who came to this country at age thirty. He was married to Otilie Grimm and they lived in the Bronx before moving to Elizabeth. Otilie started a saloon on East Jersey St. and Frank began a bottled mineral water business in a nearby building. They lived on a multi-acre farm in Elizabethport.

Their son Frank H. Boller was born in 1887 and graduated from Battin High School in 1904. He received a B.S. degree in organic chemistry at Rutgers College and joined the family business. When his father died in 1918, Frank became president of the company. At the time the company employed 75 people and operated 15 delivery trucks. He was married to Irene Keith White of Elizabeth and they had four children: Franklin, Frederick, Dorothy and Richard. Frank enjoyed boating and owned a 40 foot craft moored in Keyport for fishing and cruising.

I remember cases of Boller soda delivered to our home on South St in the 1950s. My favorites were the crème, birch beer and ginger ale flavors. The company later produced soda in aluminum cans and also distributed imported wines and beer. The Boller company went out of business sometime after 1993 and the East Jersey St. site looks idle in today's aerial view.

I thank Dianne Haynes for contributing to the history of the Boller family.

Smaller bottling companies in Elizabeth included the Philip H. Kroell Bottling Works at 233 South St. near Third Ave. Kroell produced carbonated soda and mineral water, bottled in a 9 inch tall bottle with a tooled blob lip. In 1910 the company was acquired by the nearby Rising Sun Brewery, presumably for bottling beer. The enactment of Prohibition in 1920 must have shut down the bottler since the 1922 Sanborn map shows a private home and a funeral home replaced it.



ICE HOUSES OF THE ELIZABETH ICE COMPANY, URSINO LAKE.



Elizabeth Ice Co. at Ursino Lake

The Elizabethtown Water Co. purchased 27 acres of land along the Elizabeth River in 1874 and erected a dam at Trotter's Lane, forming a 135 million gallon reservoir known as Ursino Lake. The lake was named by the Kean

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family after Count Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz of Poland, the stepfather of Peter Kean. The Count had tutored Peter as a boy and married Peter's mother Susan Livingston Kean, niece of William Livingston, New Jersey's first governor.

The Elizabeth Ice Co., formed in 1887, harvested 13,000 tons of ice annually which was stored in two buildings on the lake. The firm had 15 wagons for distribution of the ice in the warm weather. The dam was removed in the 1950s when Ursino Lake was drained. The area is now a flood retention basin.



Consumers Ice and Cold Storage Co. on East Grand St.

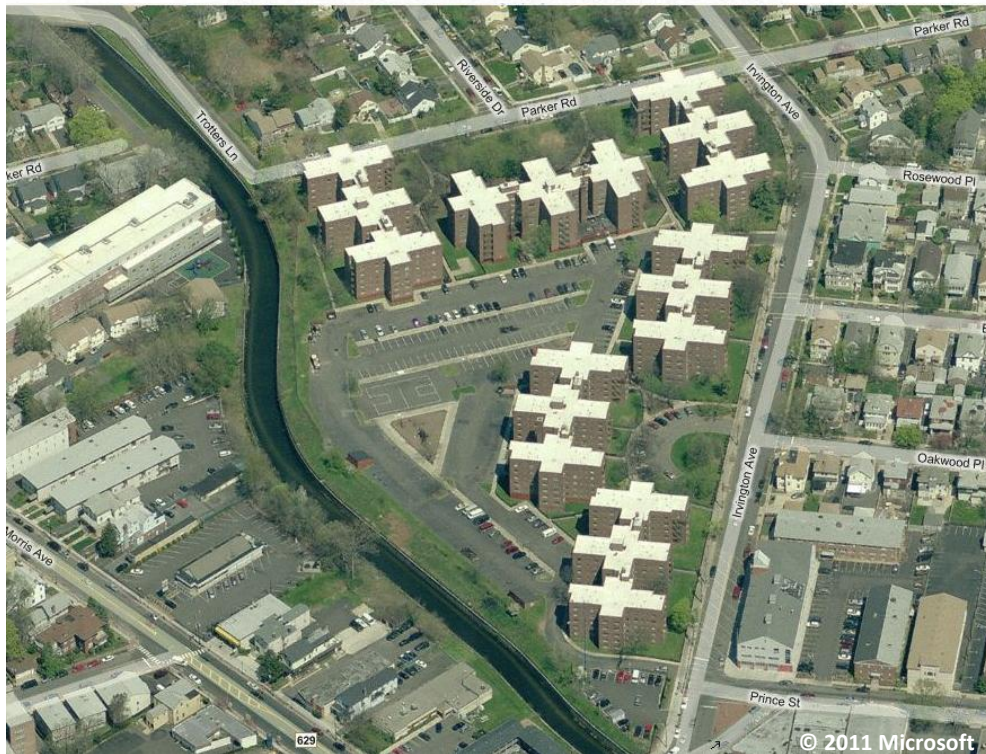
The Consumers Ice and Cold Storage Co. was located at 1077 East Grand St. This two-story brick building was the office; the ice manufacturing buildings were in the rear alongside the Central Railroad. The firm was established in 1906 by café owner Frederick Broeker, who lived at 113 Broad St. The firm was perhaps the first in Elizabeth to manufacture ice in large blocks using refrigeration compressors. Manufactured ice replaced natural ice harvested during the winter at Ursino Lake by the Elizabeth Ice Co.

There were a few ice companies still operating in the city in the 1950s. I remember going with my father to pick up a block of ice for Sunday picnics at Roosevelt Park. The ice plant was on John St. near the Elizabeth River.

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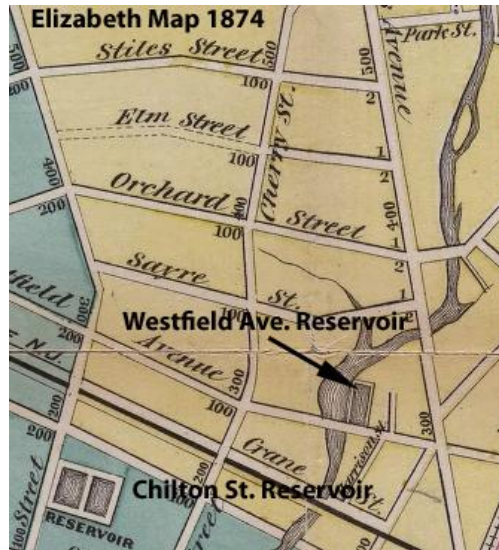
THE ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY ENTRANCE TO IRVINGTON AVENUE RESERVOIR.



Former Site of Elizabethtown Water Co. Reservoir

Ursino Lake was the major source of Elizabeth's water for many years. The Elizabethtown Water Co. had three other storage basins at Westfield Ave., Chilton St., and Irvington Ave. The entrance to the Irvington Ave. reservoir is shown in the top photo from 1889.

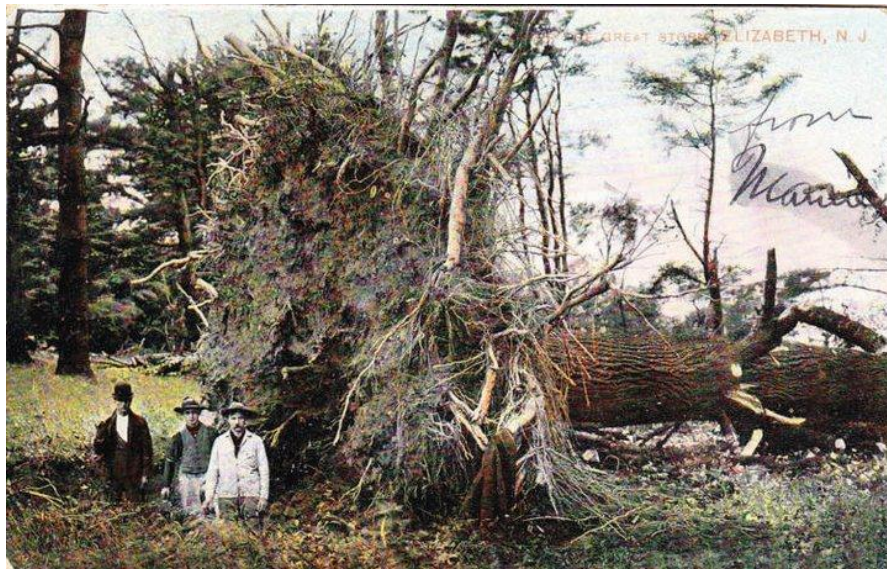
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Elizabethtown Water Co. Reservoirs 1874

The Westfield Ave. and Chilton St. reservoirs were built in 1855. The Ursino Lake and Irvington Ave. reservoirs were added in 1874 and 1886 respectively. The total storage capacity was 200 million gallons. The Westfield Ave. reservoir was the smallest of the units at 3 million gallons. The Dravis Pool was established nearby in 1916. The suggestion for the city to allow swimming there was made by Eleventh Ward resident John Dravis. The pool was very popular with residents and Dravis was soon elected to the City Council.

A filtration and chlorination unit was added in 1918 to address a spike in typhoid deaths in the city. But the pollution of the Elizabeth River became worse and by 1929 Elizabethtown Water Co. was buying most of its water from other sources in New Jersey. Ice skating was allowed on Ursino Lake until the mid-1940s. The reservoirs were drained in the 1950s. The Irvington Ave. reservoir became the site of the Pierce Manor apartments.

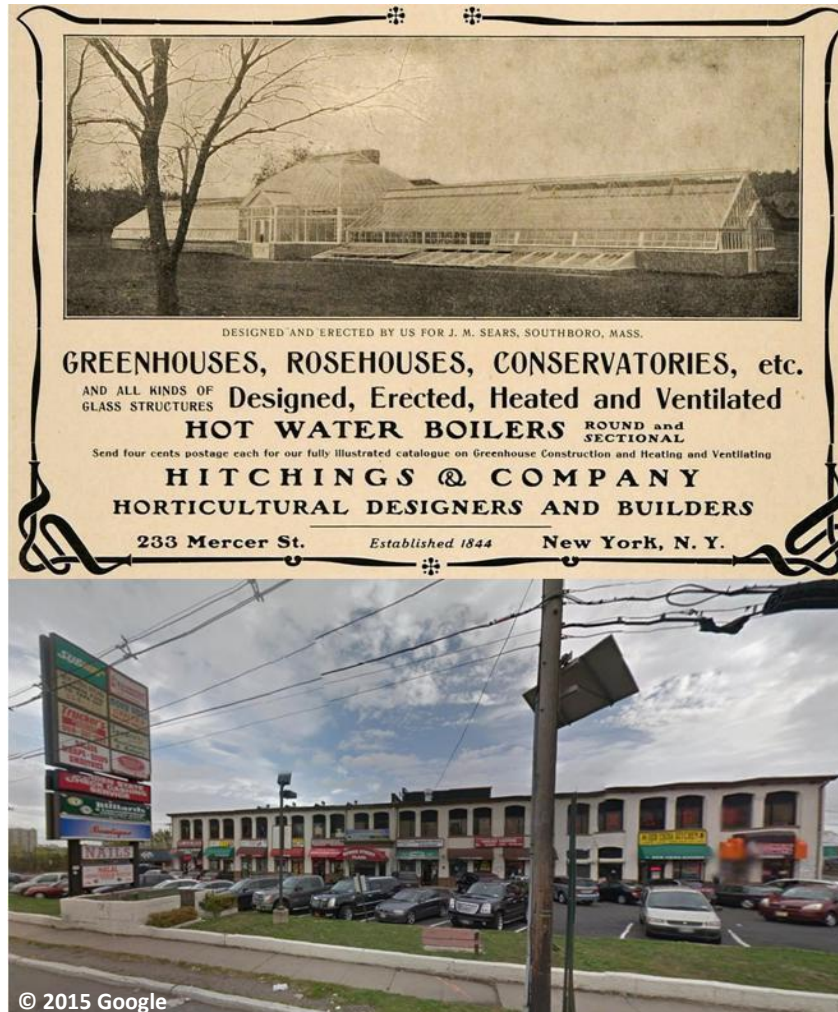


Storm Damage at Ursino Lake 1907

Elizabeth was battered by a violent wind and rainstorm September 22-23, 1907. The damage done by the so called "Great Storm" is evident in this postcard. The water in the background suggests this photo was taken at Ursino Lake. The weekly newspapers in Cranford and Westfield reported downed trees, power and telephone lines, and

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power outages. The New York Times reported 2.5 inches of rain fell in 24 hours in New York and a yacht with two men was lost at sea.

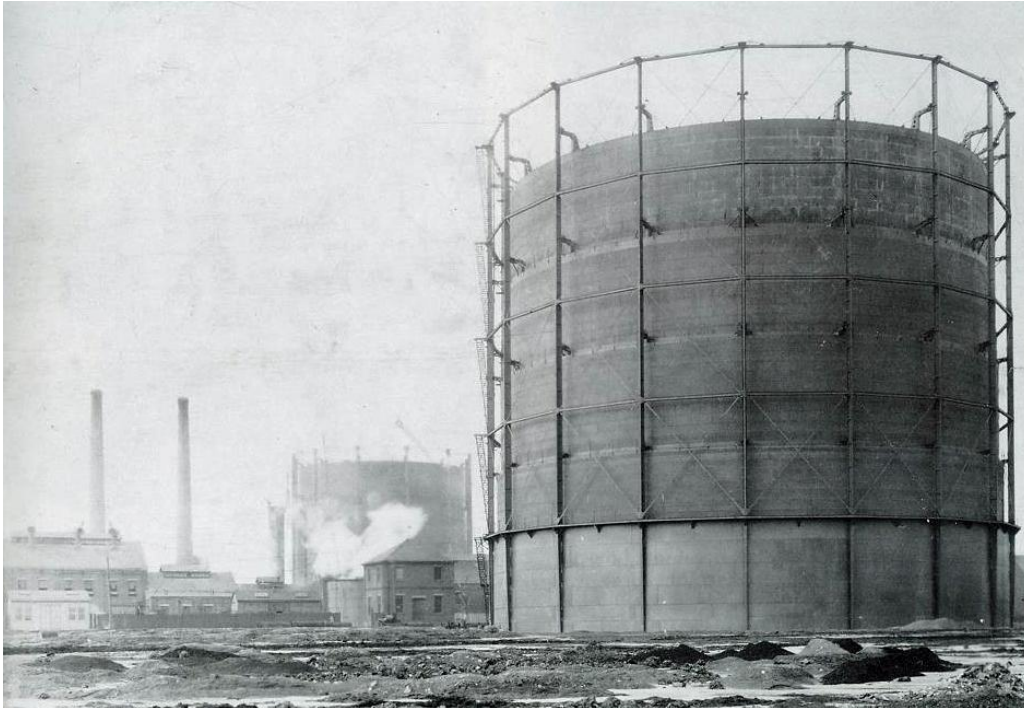


Former Location of Hitchings & Co. on U.S. Highway 1

Hitchings & Co. manufactured custom designed greenhouses and boilers at their facility on Spring St. near North Ave. The New York based firm dated to 1844 and located manufacturing in Elizabeth as early as 1919. There were several buildings at the site including a foundry. In 1931 Hitchings built a large greenhouse at the estate of U.S. Senator Hamilton F. Kean. The firm also built the glass garden conservatory at the DuPont Longwood Estate and at Bronx Park.

The two-story brick building used as a machine shop by Hitchings later became the Rockford furniture store. The store dated to the 1950s and was one of the early discount furniture dealers in the area. Today the building is a strip mall.

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Gas Storage Tank at Erie St. 1924

I remember the huge gas storage tanks at the foot of Erie St. and Third Ave. that loomed over the Frog Hollow neighborhood for years. The Elizabethtown Gas Light Co. was established in 1855 by the wealthy and politically influential Kean family. The Keans also controlled the Central Railroad, Elizabethtown Water Co. and the National State Bank. The original location of the gas works was bounded by South St., Fourth Ave., Centre St. and the Elizabeth River. In 1870 a competing firm, the Metropolitan Gas Light Co., established a facility at Erie St. Metropolitan went bankrupt by 1894 and its facility was taken over by Elizabethtown Gas.

The initial process made "water gas", a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen, by passing steam over red-hot coal in a boiler. Gas was held in a 300,000 cubic foot tank and distributed through 50 miles of mains for light, heat and power. The company also sold gas cooking stoves to increase use of the gas. These stoves were displayed in a showroom at the company's office at 124 Broad St.

A more economical process was developed in the late 19th century to manufacture "carbureted water gas" which had higher heating value. Coal gasification ended in the early 1950s with the delivery of natural gas in the transcontinental pipeline from Texas. Natural gas had three major advantages over manufactured gas. It contained almost twice the heating value, it was cheaper because it eliminated the use of coal and oil, and it was cleaner. Another advantage of natural gas was the absence of carbon monoxide, a dangerous component of manufactured gas.

Additional storage tanks were built over the years, including the world's largest welded steel tank in 1948 at a cost over a million dollars. In 1970 four people died when a small twin-engine plane struck the top of one of tanks, crashing into the rear yard of an apartment building. Today only one tank remains, leaving a much smaller industrial footprint.

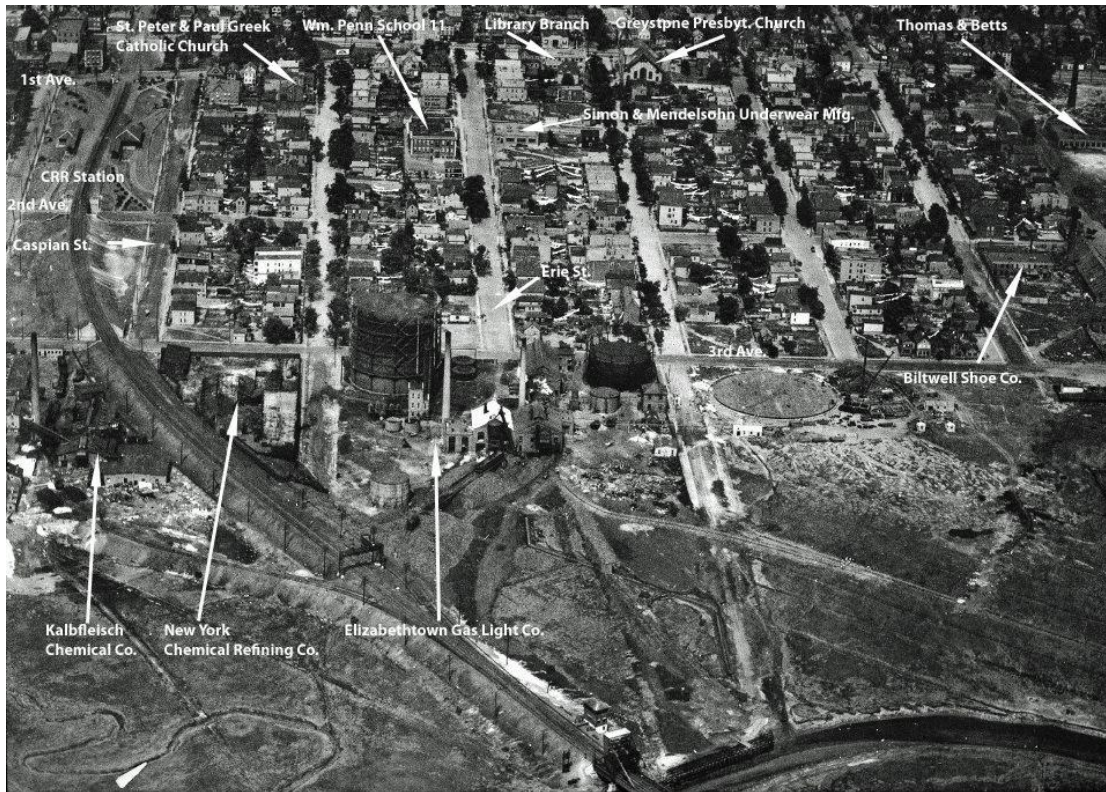
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Stove Delivery from Elizabethtown Gas Light Company 1912

These 1912 photos show the Elizabethtown Gas Light Company delivering a gas range to a home. At the time, the company was switching from horse drawn wagons to motorized trucks. The company had a showroom on Broad St. near West Jersey St.

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Frog Hollow Homes and Industry 1923

This 1923 aerial photo shows the Frog Hollow section of the city, a compact neighborhood of homes, churches,, schools, stores, saloons and factories. Factories surrounding the Polish/Slavic neighborhood included the Kalbfleisch Chemical Co., New York Refining Co., Elizabethtown Gas Co., Thomas & Betts, Simon & Mendelsohn Underwear Mfg., and the Biltwell Shoe Co. For years the residents endured noise, soot, odors and toxic fumes emitted by these firms. Today most of the factories are gone, replaced by the New Jersey Turnpike and residential homes. The William Penn School 11, at the corner of Erie St. and Merritt Ave., was demolished after 1987 and is now the site of multi-family homes.

The Kalbfleisch Chemical Co. was located at Third Ave. and Baltic St., in the Frog Hollow neighborhood, next to the Elizabethtown Gas Works. The firm began manufacture of sulfuric acid about 1900, using the chamber process. This involved the combustion of sulfur (once known as brimstone) imported from Sicily. The sulfuric acid was widely used in oil refining, fertilizer, storage batteries and for production of other chemicals.

The plant expanded operations in 1917 by the acquisition of four acres with frontage on the Elizabeth River. There was a railroad siding of the Central Railroad available for receiving and shipping chemicals. In 1918, 45 men struck for higher wages. They were earning 35 cents an hour and demanded an increase to 45 cents. The strike was not successful and the workers returned after only three days at the old pay rate.

In 1920 a group of 100 residents filed a complaint against the company for the elimination of the noxious fumes (oxides of sulfur) from the plant. John J. Stamler, attorney for the company, explained that Kalbfleisch had spent \$100,000 in efforts to eliminate the fumes. The plant may have been forced to shut down since in 1922 the Chancery Court permitted its reopening for a ten-day trial. This would allow William D. Wolfskiel, an expert named by the court, to observe conditions and determine if operation of the plant was a health threat. Kalbfleisch was to introduce a new process said to eliminate the fumes.

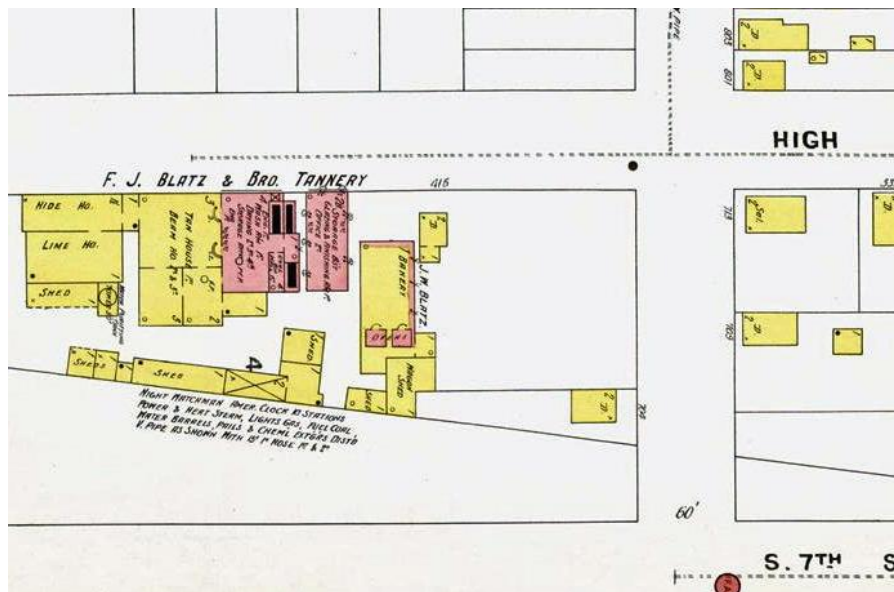
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The fumes problem was presumably solved because Kalbfleisch continued to advertise the Elizabeth plant after 1922. American Cyanamid acquired the Kalbfleisch Chemical Co. in 1929. The Elizabeth operation was likely transferred at some point to the larger Cyanamid acid plant in Linden. Baltic St. was eliminated for the construction of the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950. The Kalbfleisch buildings would have been demolished at this time.



Former Biltwell Shoe Co. at South Second St.

Another factory in the Frog Hollow section was the Biltwell Shoe Co., established about 1921 in this building on South Second St. near Second Ave. The building was previously an oil cloth factory in 1889 and the Arnold Schiff umbrella factory in 1903. Biltwell was the only shoe manufacturer in Elizabeth but was short-lived. By 1927 the site was taken over by the Connelly-GPM Co. which made ground iron products and iron hydroxide. The company closed in 1987 and today the property is abandoned.



F. J. Blatz Tannery on High St.

One of the few industries in Peterstown was the F.J. Blatz & Bro. Tannery located at the foot of High St. and the Elizabeth River, shown in this 1903 Sanborn map. It was originally known as the Schreiber & Blatz company dating

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to about 1866. Partner Francis J. Blatz was born in 1839 in Georgia. He married Louise M. Eller of Elizabeth; they lived at 28 Jacques St. and had eleven children. The firm won a gold medal at the 1900 International Universal Exposition in Paris for their display of glazed kid leathers for shoes. About 100 men were employed there in 1912. The bakery and pretzel factory next store were also owned by the Blatz family.

Blatz died in 1916 and the leather factory disappeared sometime before 1922. Untreated tannery waste was discharged to the Elizabeth River, polluting it with fats, oils, dyes, and toxic chromium salts for many years. Sons John Blatz and William C. Blatz became principals of the F. Blumenthal leather company, Wilmington, Delaware in 1916.



Suburban Electric Co. on Murray St.

The earliest electric power generating firm in Elizabeth may have been the Suburban Electric Company, established in 1891 with \$350,000 capital, equivalent to \$8.4 million today. It consolidated all the electrical interests of Elizabeth and Roselle, and built a station in 1892 at the foot of Murray St. beside the Elizabeth River. The main building was 87 x 225 feet and two to three stories high. Coal-fired boilers produced steam that drove turbines, generating electricity to power 200 arc lamps for street lighting, 8,250 incandescent lamps, and 80 h. p. of motors for Elizabethport industries. About 225 miles of power cable was installed throughout the city and as far as Roselle, Cranford and Westfield. The station also provided electricity for the trolley system using overhead cables. The location was chosen for the ample supply of boiler feed water from the river and the delivery of coal via the Pennsylvania Railroad. Proximity to nearby residences was apparently not a concern at the time.

The company advertised the advantages of electricity over gas for heating and lighting homes. Potential customers were invited to visit the station to discuss rates. In 1894 the largest generator in the U.S. was installed there, with capacity for 6,000 lights.

In 1901 Suburban Electric merged with twenty other power firms in Union, Essex and Hudson counties to form the United Electric Company of which A. B. Carlton, controller of Elizabeth, was president. The company probably disappeared after the establishment of the Public Service Electric Co. in 1910, which built larger and more efficient power plants in Newark and Linden. The Murray St. site was demolished and became a residential area.

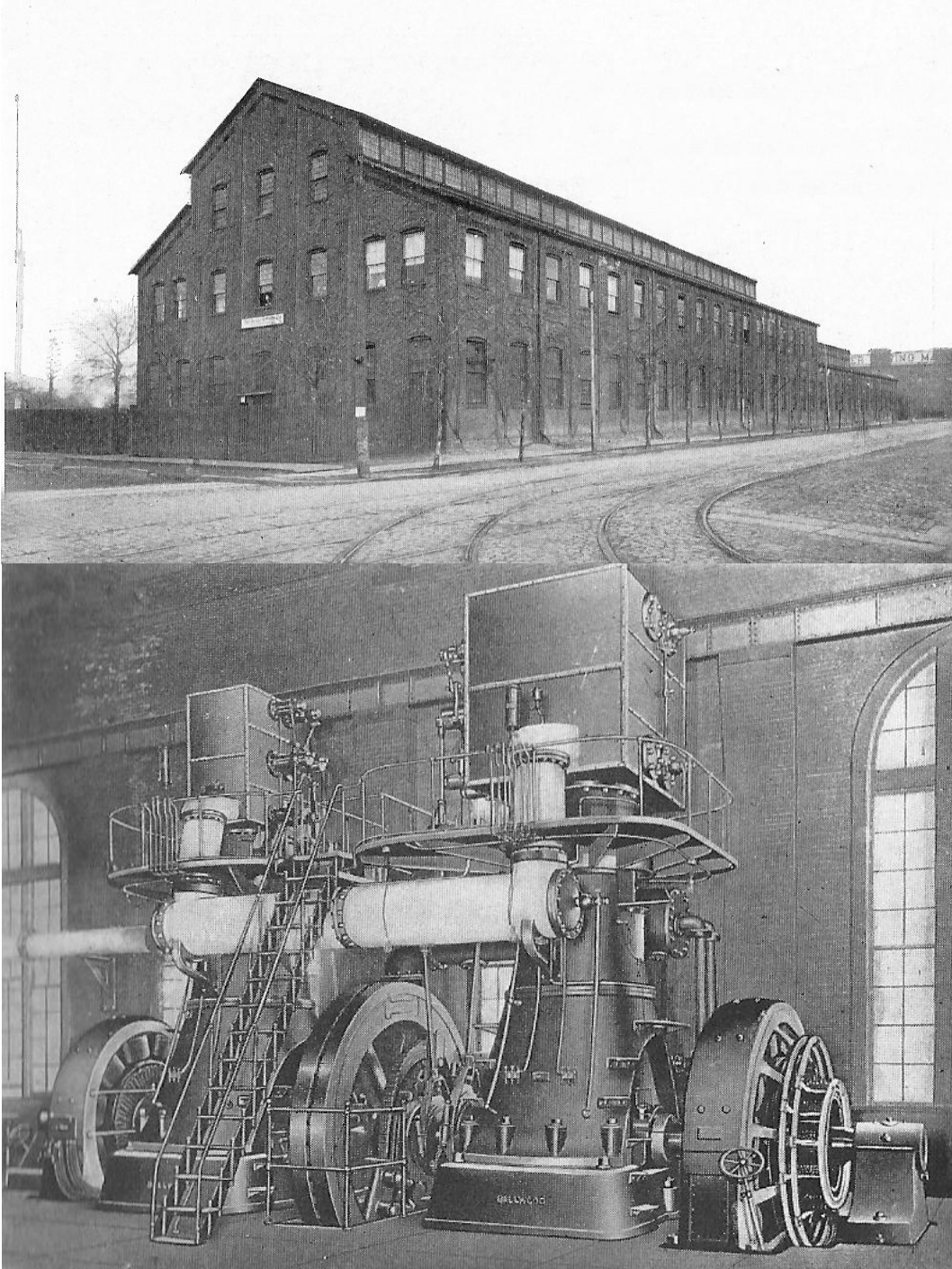
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Public Service Building on North Broad St.

The Public Service Electric Co. was incorporated in 1910 to produce and distribute electricity, with headquarters in Newark. An impressive branch office building was built at 271 North Broad St. in Elizabeth about 1915. Note the fine architectural details in the photo from that era. A showroom displayed electric lighting and appliances for the home. Another division of the company operated an electrified street railway system and later a gasoline powered bus transportation system. The company merged with the New Jersey Natural Gas Co. in 1977 to form the Public Service Electric and Gas Co. It is the state's oldest regulated utility company. Today the building is used by the Union County Board of Elections.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

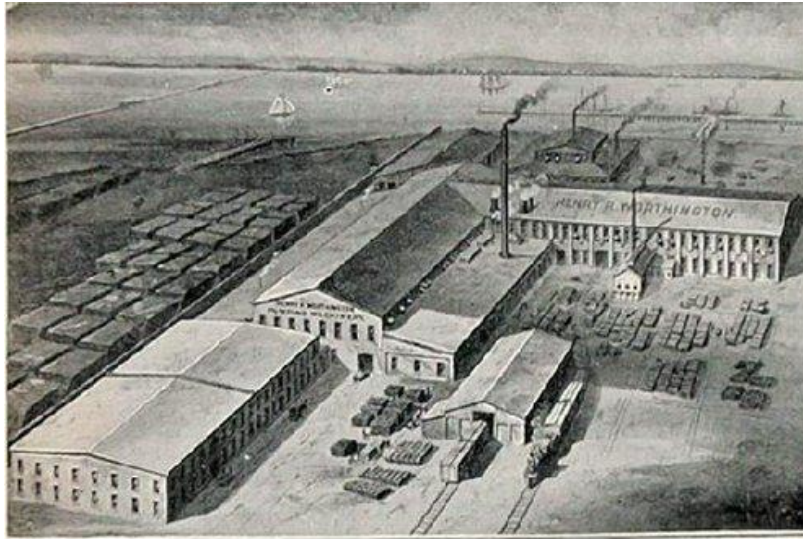


Ball & Wood Co. at Trumbull St.

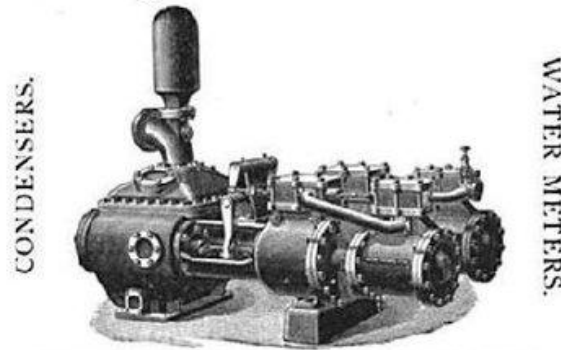
Elizabeth was a leading manufacturer of machinery in its heyday. The Ball & Wood Co. was established in 1891 on a four acre site between the Central Railroad tracks and Trumbull St., adjoining the Singer works. The company manufactured steam engines to drive line shafts or turbines to generate electricity. The equipment found wide application for electric railways, lighting systems and factories that needed electricity for tools and machinery. The main building (top photo) was of brick construction and had a heavy duty electric overhead crane. There were also boiler houses and buildings for forging, nickel plating and painting. The factory employed 90 skilled machinists in 1897. The bottom photo shows the massive Ball & Wood vertical engines connected directly to electrical

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

generators. A building was added in 1905 to make welded flanged pipe for high pressure steam. It is not known when the company closed. Aerial photos indicate the factory buildings were demolished between 1995 and 2002.



Worthington Steam Pumps



HENRY R. WORTHINGTON

NEW YORK, 86 and 88 Liberty Street

BOSTON, 70 Kilby St. PHILADELPHIA, 607 Arch St. CHICAGO, 185 to 189 Van Buren St.

CLEVELAND, 24 So. Water St. ST. LOUIS, Eighth and St. Charles Sts.

INDIANAPOLIS, 164 So. Pennsylvania Street.

HYDRAULIC WORKS, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Elizabethport, N. J.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

Henry R. Worthington Hydraulic Works on Front St.

In the 19th century, Elizabethport attracted heavy machinery companies with excellent ship and rail access and the availability of skilled workers. The Henry R. Worthington Hydraulic Works built a foundry in 1891 on Front St., between Marshall and Franklin Streets. Henry R. Worthington had patented the first direct acting steam pump in 1845 and built a plant in Brooklyn. These pumps found wide application here and abroad in waterworks service, oil refineries, ships and buildings. The company won the grand prize for pumping machinery at the 1889 Paris Exhibition.

A total of 1700 men worked in the Elizabethport and Brooklyn plants. In 1904 the company consolidated its plants into a new facility in Harrison, NJ. The Elizabethport site was later used by the Bethlehem Steel Co.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Singer Sewing Machine Co. in Elizabethport Then and Now

Many Elizabeth residents had a relative, friend or neighbor who worked at the Singer Sewing Machine Co. factory at Trumbull and First Streets. The massive works loomed over the Elizabethport skyline since Singer moved there from New York in 1873. The factory was the largest employer in Elizabeth for over a hundred years, with almost 10,000 people working there at its peak. The top photo dates to 1889. The original four-story building was destroyed in a fire in 1890. It was rebuilt as a five-story building. The bottom photo shows the closed factory in 1984.

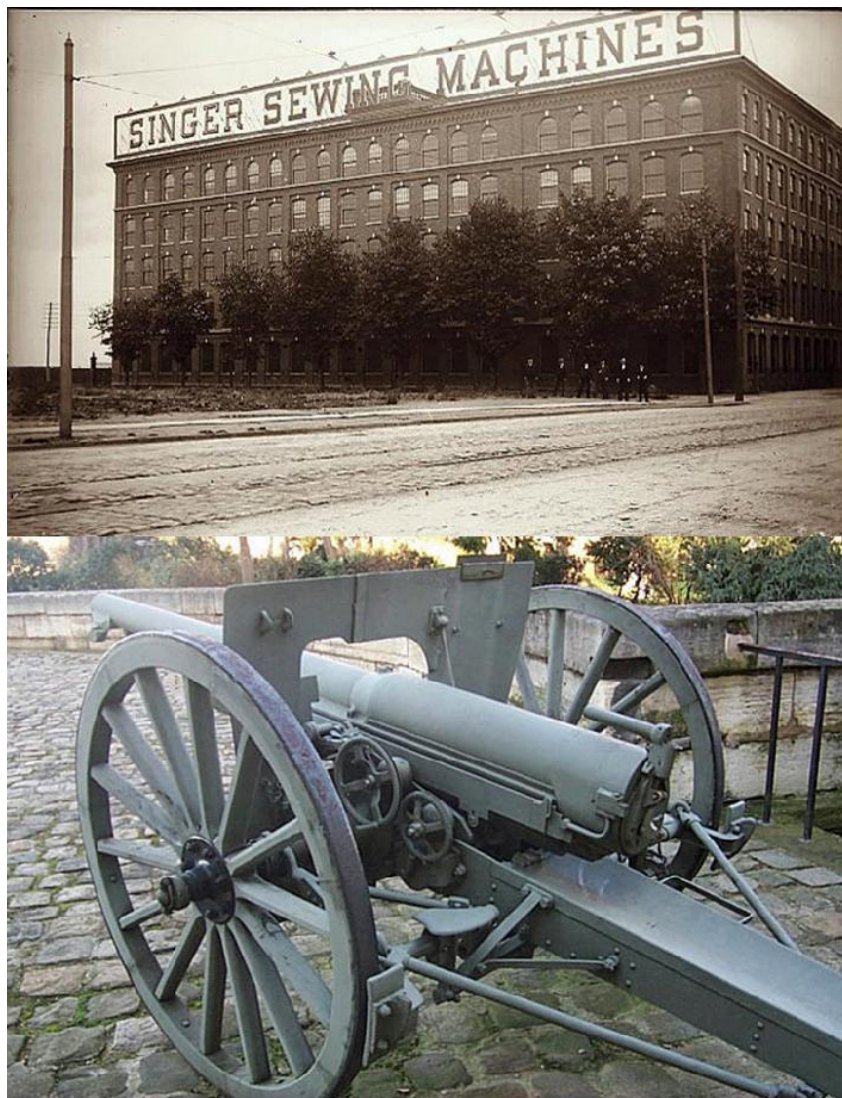
Boys earned money "rushing the growler" at lunchtime at the Singer plant. German workers lowered their covered beer pails, called growlers, on ropes to the boys waiting below. They earned a nickel by filling them with beer at Grampp's saloon on Trumbull St. One of these boys was Thomas Dunn who later became a long term Mayor. In the early 1920s Frederick Grampp went into the hardware business at the corner of Elizabeth Ave. and Reid St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

My cousin Gloria Imbriaco, who lived next door to me on South St., worked there for many years as an executive secretary. When the management offices were transferred to company headquarters in Stamford, CT around 1980, she commuted to work for several more years until retirement.

Former Elizabeth resident Ed Zamorski said "I too had relatives working at Singers. My favorite Singers story is the 500 M1911A1 .45 pistols they manufactured for the Government in 1942 as an educational order to prove they could handle the machine work. The pistols proved to be superior in form, fit, and finish compared to the other WWII manufacturers of Colt, Ithaca, Union Switch & Signal, and Remington Rand. About 100 of the pistols are still known to exist and are the Holy Grail of antique military sidearm collectors. Depending on condition, auction sales have recently brought from \$25K to more than \$100K ! Just one more story that makes me proud of historical Elizabeth."

But the factory eventually became unprofitable in an emerging global economy. In 1980, 850 of the 2300 employees were laid off. The factory closed in 1982 with the last 560 workers losing their jobs.



Singer Manufactured the Recuperator for French 75 mm Artillery Gun

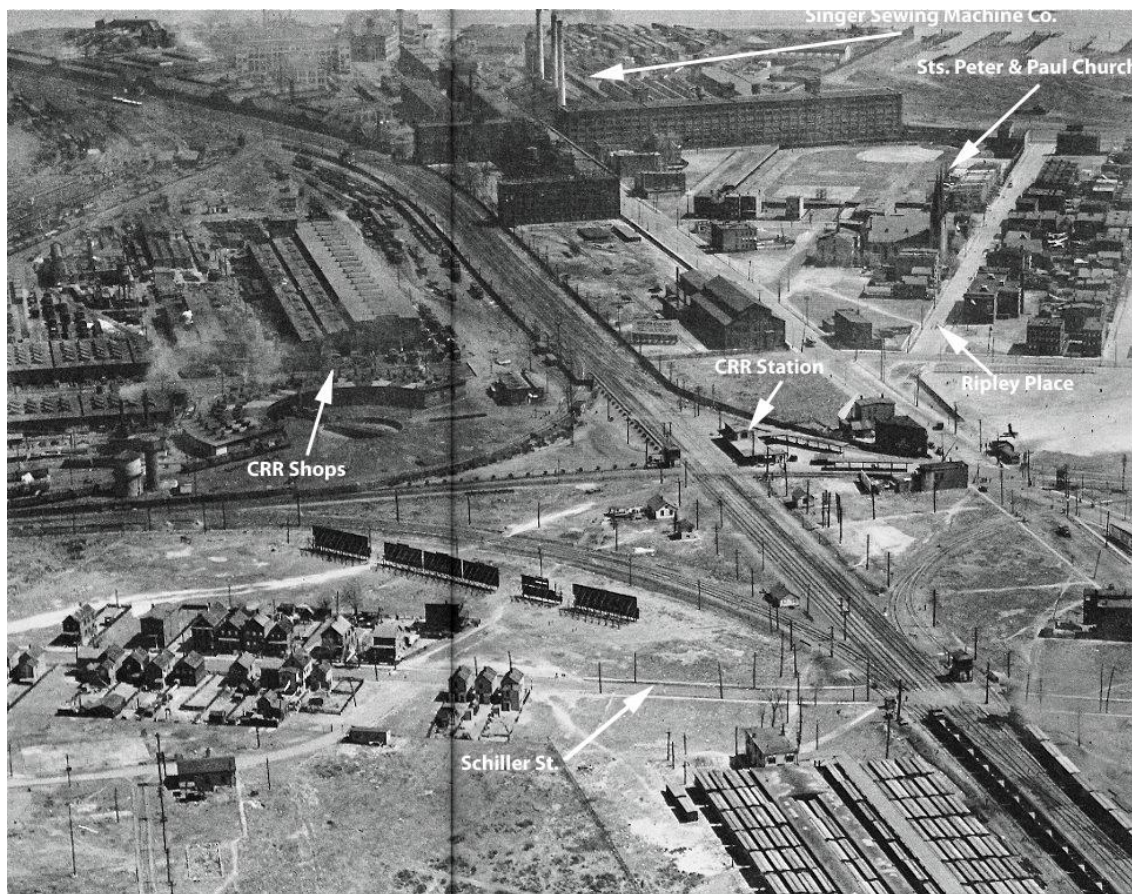
Singer, a leader in machine technology since the late 19th century, took up the machining and finishing of the recuperator for the French 75mm gun used in World War I by both French and U.S. armies. The recuperator was

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

the hydro-pneumatic recoil mechanism which kept the gun's trail and wheels perfectly still during firing. Since re-aiming after each shot was not needed, the French 75 could deliver fifteen rounds per minute on its target, up to 5 miles away.

In March 1918 Singer accepted an order for 2,500 recuperators and built a machining facility at a cost of \$4.4 million, reimbursed by the government. The devices were quality tested by the U.S. Army at the Elizabethport Proving Ground, built that same year at a cost of \$153,000. It was located on 19 acres alongside the Central Railroad, one mile from the Singer plant. Firing was conducted into sand butts. A garrison of two officers and 50-60 enlisted men was provided, stationed in barracks.

But machining the recuperators was difficult and manufacturing was well below the target of 17 per day. World War I ended before the first recuperator was accepted by the Army. In 1919, 247 recuperators were accepted. The US Army kept a large inventory of the gun after World War I and used it extensively for training purposes until 1942.



Elizabethport Industries 1923

The industrial might of Elizabeth is apparent in this 1923 aerial photo of the Port area. Note the proximity of residences and the absence of cars and parking lots. Workers back then walked, took the trolley or train to get to their jobs.

The foundry, machinery, metals, chemical, and other manufacturing companies in the Port probably employed 25,000 at their peak. The Port manufacturing sector was the main economic engine of the city for more than 100 years.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Metal Workers Union Local No. 9 Members at Courthouse 1906

This 1906 photo taken at the steps of the Union County Courthouse, shows the Local No. 9 metal workers union members who won first prize in the Labor Day parade. The parade demonstrated the strength of the emerging labor union movement in Elizabeth.

Union official James Mallon told the Elizabeth Daily Journal "It was a great day for Local No. 9, and organized labor in general. It was a fine example of the fraternal feeling and perfect harmony that exists among the organized workers in this vicinity. What an impression it must have made on the minds of the penny politicians and capitalistic parasites of this trust-ridden state and how it must have made them shiver in their boots to think of the day when these workers would awake to the realization of their strength and not only show it but use it for their own betterment."

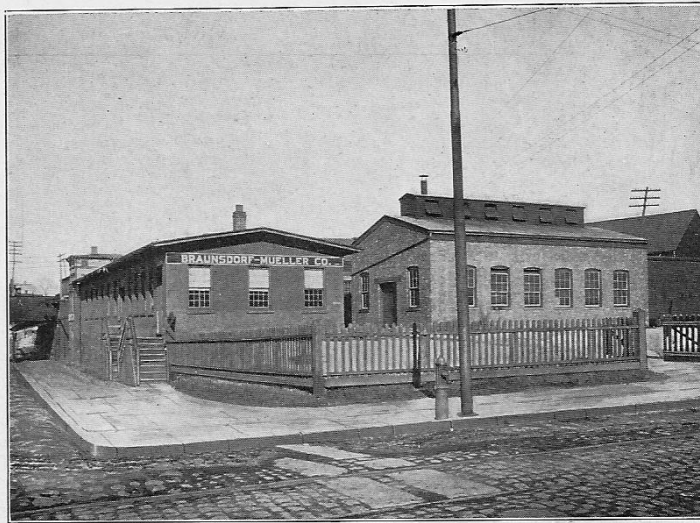
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



American Swiss File & Tool Co. at Fourth and Trumbull Streets

Elizabeth was once a favored location for tool making companies. The American Swiss File & Tool Co. was established in 1900 by Edward P. Reichhelm. He came from Prussia in 1848, fought in the Civil War for the Union, and later became a mechanical engineer. In 1886 Reichhelm founded the American Gas Furnace Co. which also had a factory in Elizabeth. These gas furnaces were used to anneal and harden the steel used for files, resulting in higher quality tools compared to those made with older methods in Switzerland. The two-story brick building, at the corner of Trumbull and Fourth Streets, was erected in 1906. In 1918 the factory employed 100. In 1951 the factory was sold to the Evans Co., maker of rules and tape measures. The building is used today by another company.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Braunsdorf-Mueller Co. on East Grand St.

Another Elizabeth tool maker was the Braunsdorf-Mueller Co. established in 1901. The company made a wide variety of tools and hardware items, including wrenches, punches, chisels, vises and miter boxes. The company was founded by Henry R. Braunsdorf and Charles F. Mueller with the factory located at the corner of East Grand St. and Madison Ave. In 1918, 100 workers struck for a 10 percent wage increase and the elimination of piece work. The strike only lasted one day as the company agreed to the workers' demands.

Tools made by Braunsdorf-Mueller were usually marked with the company's "BMCo" logo, consisting of the letters "BMCo" enclosed in an oval. They are considered collectors' items today. Some of the factory buildings are still standing.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

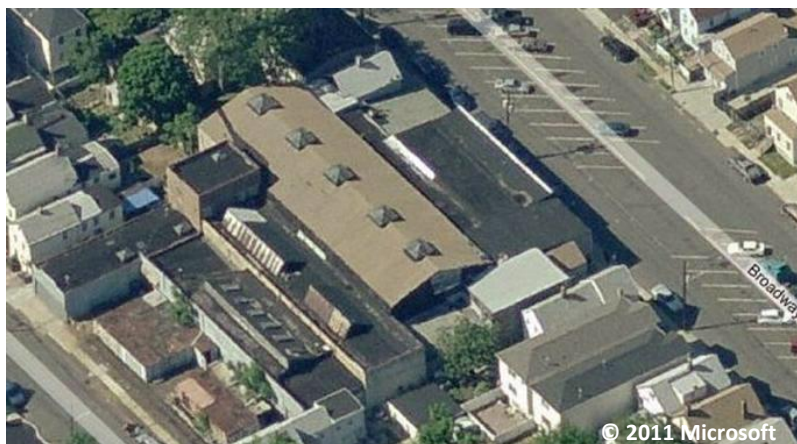


Western Foundry Supply Co. at Foot of Livingston St.

Foundry and metal working industries thrived in Elizabeth because of the ample supply of skilled labor and excellent rail service for heavy material shipments. The Western Foundry Supply Co. plant was built in 1907 at the foot of Livingston St. in Elizabethport. The plant had capacity of 50 tons per day of ground alloys, including ferromanganese and ferrosilicon, used in iron casting and steelmaking. The plant was equipped with a 150-horsepower boiler, 100-horsepower engine, two roll jaw crushers, two impact pulverizers, two mills and a duplicate set of screens.

In 1909 the plant was purchased by Robert Gilchrist & Co. which continued the same product line. Gilchrist enlarged the facility and added machinery for grinding manganese dioxide. In 1913 the City of Elizabeth sought an injunction to stop dust pollution at a nearby public recreation park. But the New Jersey Court of Chancery ruled against the injunction because the company used due diligence to keep the dust down to the lowest possible amount.

There are no references to the company after 1918. The end of WW I and the cancellation of military contracts forced cutbacks or plant closures in many industries, perhaps including Gilchrist & Co. The plant may have been used for different purposes over the years, but was eventually demolished. The waterfront area of Elizabeth is now much improved, with new residences, marina and park.



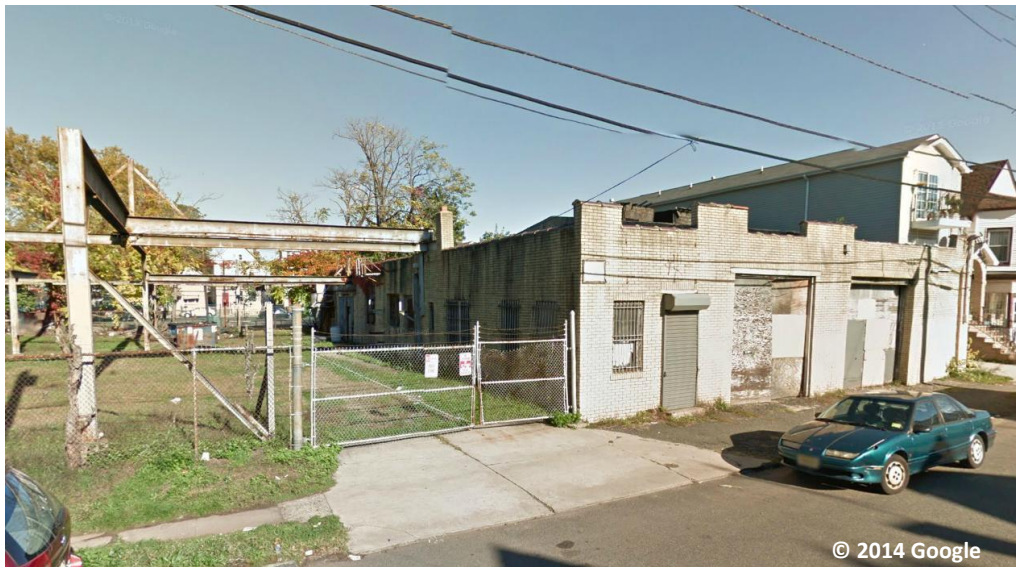
Former Site of Cooper Alloy Foundry Co. on Broadway

The R. S. Christie Co. was incorporated in 1917 to operate a foundry at 150 Broadway, Elizabeth, NJ. The firm made anvils, castings, etc. and was capitalized at \$50,000. The incorporators were Robert S. Christie and James S. Ramsay of Elizabeth. The foundry was taken over in 1931 by H.A. Cooper, who formed the Cooper Alloy Foundry Co.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Cooper was the former general manager of the William J. Sweet foundry of Newark, which went bankrupt. He integrated the complete organization of the Sweet foundry into his new company. The firm made "Sweetaloy" stainless steel castings and other alloy castings that were corrosion and heat resistant.

The company was purchased in 1941 by the Eureka Iron Works of Newark, which made iron and steel products and welded equipment. Mark H. Beam was president. The factory at that time consisted of one- and two-story buildings and was likely a supplier of alloy steel for WW II military requirements. These alloys would have been suitable for submarine construction. Cooper Alloy moved to a site in Hillside.



Former Site of Elizabeth Iron Works on Franklin St.

Elizabethport employed thousands in foundries, structural steel, machinery and tool factories. The companies ranged from small operations like the Elizabeth Iron Works, established in 1907 in this building at 127 Franklin St., to large corporations like Bethlehem Steel on the waterfront. The Elizabeth Iron Works, founded by Nathan Merlis and Louis Diamond, later outgrew this residential location and moved to a larger site on Green Lane in Union.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Thomas & Betts Co. at Butler St. and Elizabeth Ave.

The Thomas & Betts Co. began in 1898 when Princeton University classmates Robert M. Thomas and Hobart D. Betts recognized a business opportunity in the new and booming electrical industry. They began selling rigid conduit to New York electrical distributors. In 1917, the company moved their headquarters to 36 Butler St. in Elizabeth, including engineering, manufacturing, and sales divisions. During the 1930s, Thomas & Betts supplied electrical components for the construction of the Empire State Building as well as in the New York Subway expansion project.

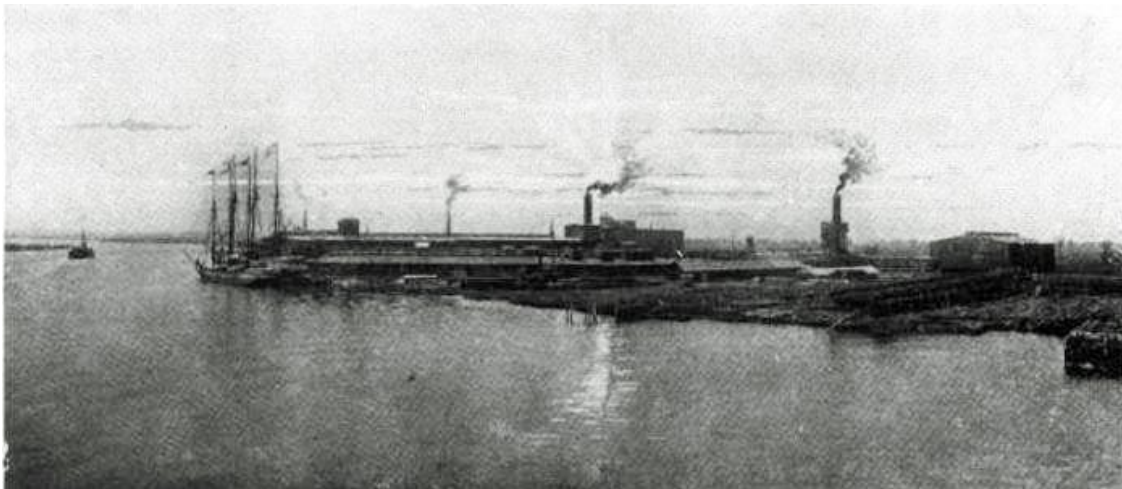
Because its products were indispensable for the wiring of military planes, tanks and ships, the Elizabeth factory was ranked as one of the 12 plants most critical to the war effort from 1939 to 1945. In 1953 the company

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

introduced the world's first flexible, waterproof conduit connectors, used in the Nautilus – the first nuclear submarine.

In 1958, Thomas & Betts made engineering history when they introduced the Ty-Rap® cable tie, developed to facilitate wire harnessing in aircraft. Cable tie sales account for several hundred million dollars of the company's annual sales today.

During the 1960s the company became a global supplier with innovative product lines. They branched into telecommunications in the 1970s. In 1980 Thomas & Betts began marketing the Versa-Trak under carpet wiring system for office buildings. After the purchase of American Electric in 1992, Thomas & Betts doubled in size, becoming the largest North American manufacturer of electrical components. The same year, they relocated the corporate headquarters and manufacturing plant to Memphis. The Butler St. site was offered for lease.



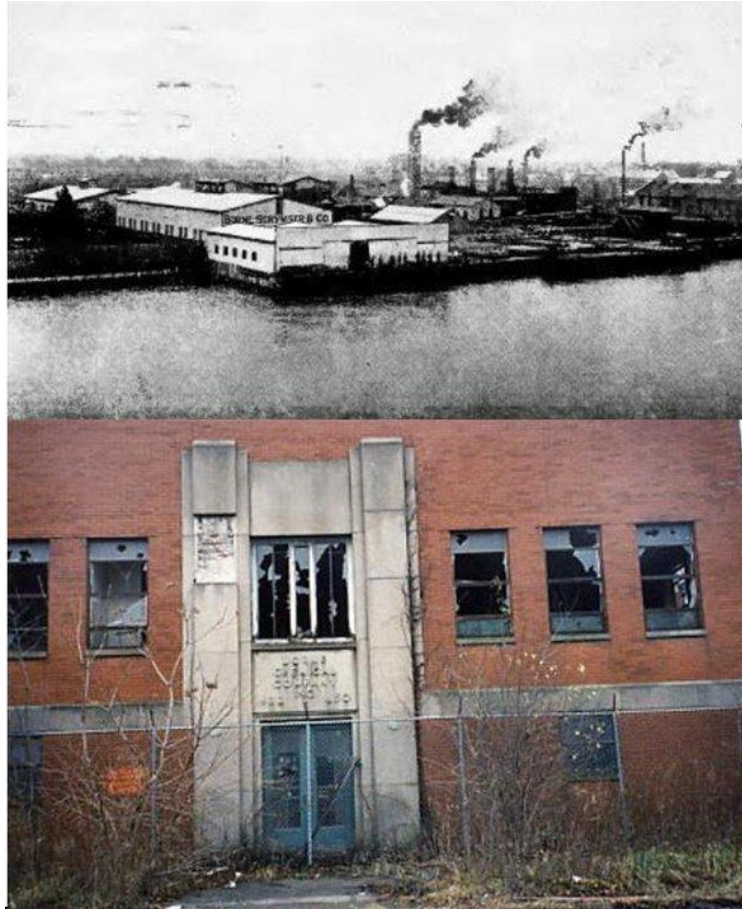
Bowker Fertilizer Co. on South Front St. 1889

The Bowker Fertilizer Co. built a plant in Elizabethport about 1871. It was located on an 8 acre site on South Front St., just south of the railroad bridge, and had several brick and wood manufacturing buildings, a ship dock and rail siding. The company produced fertilizers for crops, fruit trees, gardens and lawns, sold under the "Stockbridge" label. Animal feeds were also made such as ground beef scraps and ground oyster shells.

Bowker was an early manufacturer of synthetic phosphate fertilizers, produced by reacting sulfuric acid with ground animal bones. Sulfuric acid was made by the chamber process which involved roasting sulfur ores and absorbing the toxic sulfur dioxide fumes in water. This was a smelly operation and after a fire damaged the works in 1882, Elizabeth residents hoped the plant would close. But the company rebuilt despite neighborhood complaints. The plant was a dangerous workplace, evidenced by the death of Andrew Phatoola, a Hungarian immigrant, killed in 1896 when a twelve foot high fertilizer pile collapsed upon him.

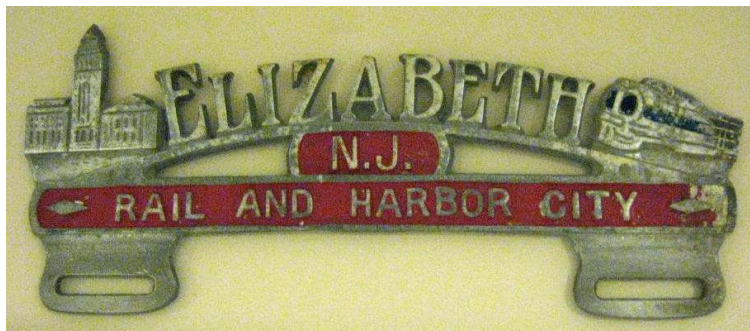
By 1916 the plant employed 500 men. The plant eventually closed as did the adjoining Borne Chemical Co. The sites have been cleared and the City of Elizabeth is promoting the redevelopment of this section of the waterfront.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Borne Chemical Co. on Arthur Kill. 1998 Photo by R.J. Baptista.

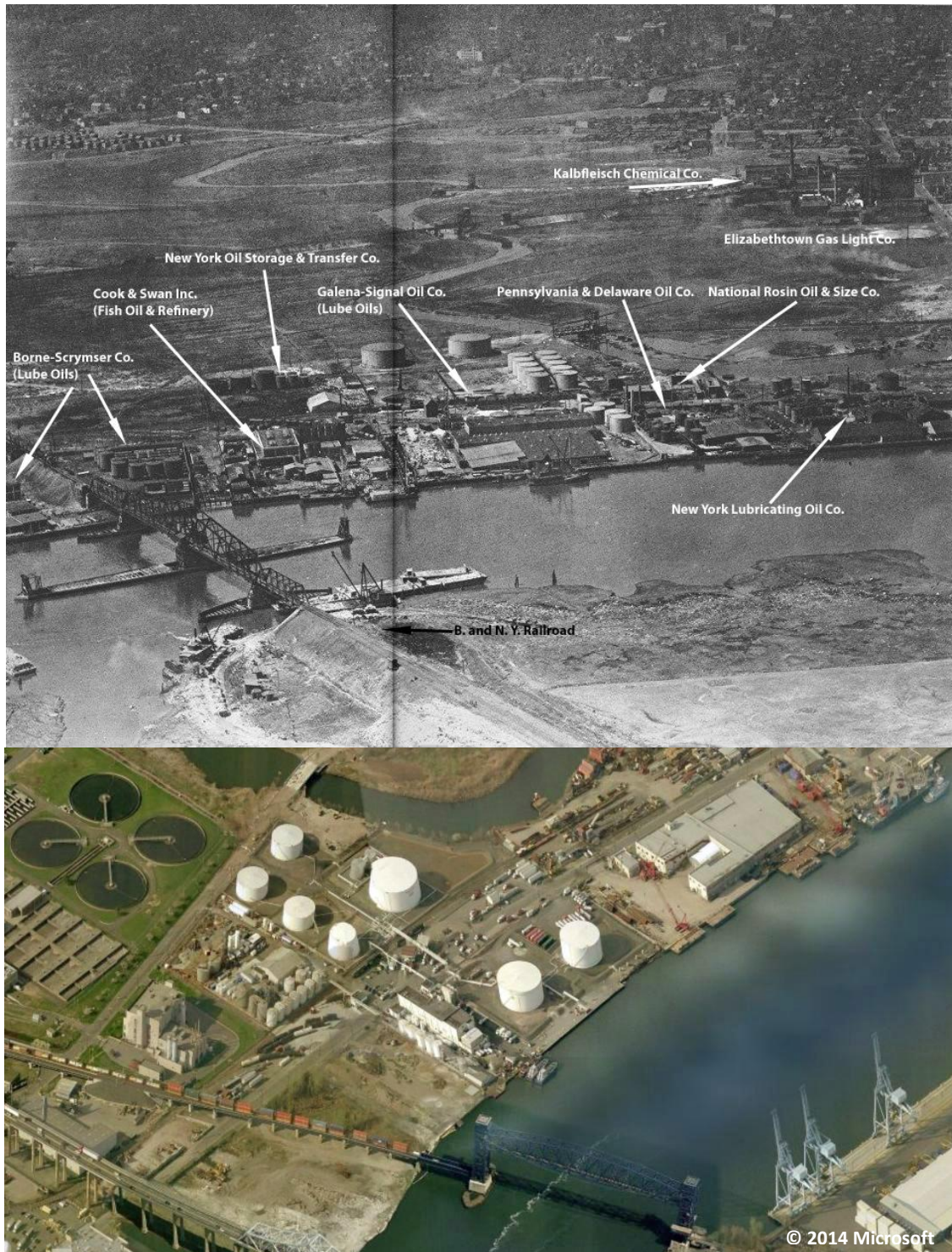
Borne Chemical Co., first known as the Borne-Scrymser Co., built an oil refinery along the Arthur Kill in 1883. It refined lubricating oils for industries, replacing whale sperm oil. About 100 different grades of oil were made. When oil prices skyrocketed in the 1970s, the company began to sell recycled motor oil and auto transmission fluid. Toxic PCBs were found at the site in 1978. The firm went bankrupt in 1980. The buildings stood abandoned for years but were recently demolished. An environmental cleanup is in progress. The City of Elizabeth views the brownfield site as a prime real estate location and is seeking a developer to reinvest at the property.



Elizabeth Attracted Industry with "Rail and Harbor City" Promotion. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

In the early 1900s, Elizabeth proclaimed itself as the "Rail and Harbor City" to attract heavy industry. The strategy filled the Elizabethport and Bayway waterfront with machinery plants, foundries, chemical plants and oil refineries. At the peak, about 25,000 people worked in these plants.

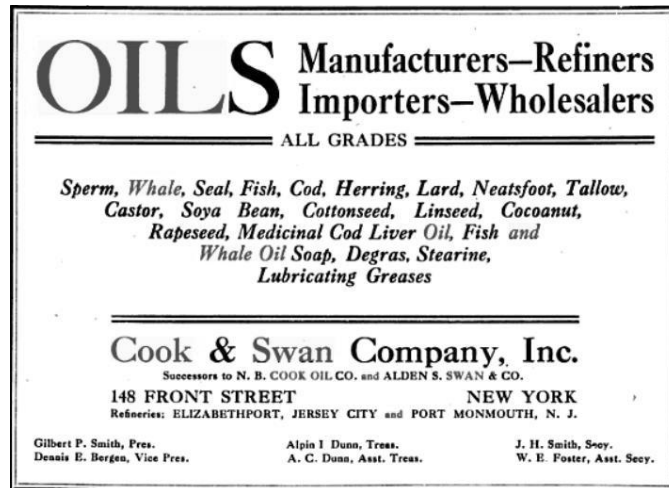
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Chemical Plants on Arthur Kill

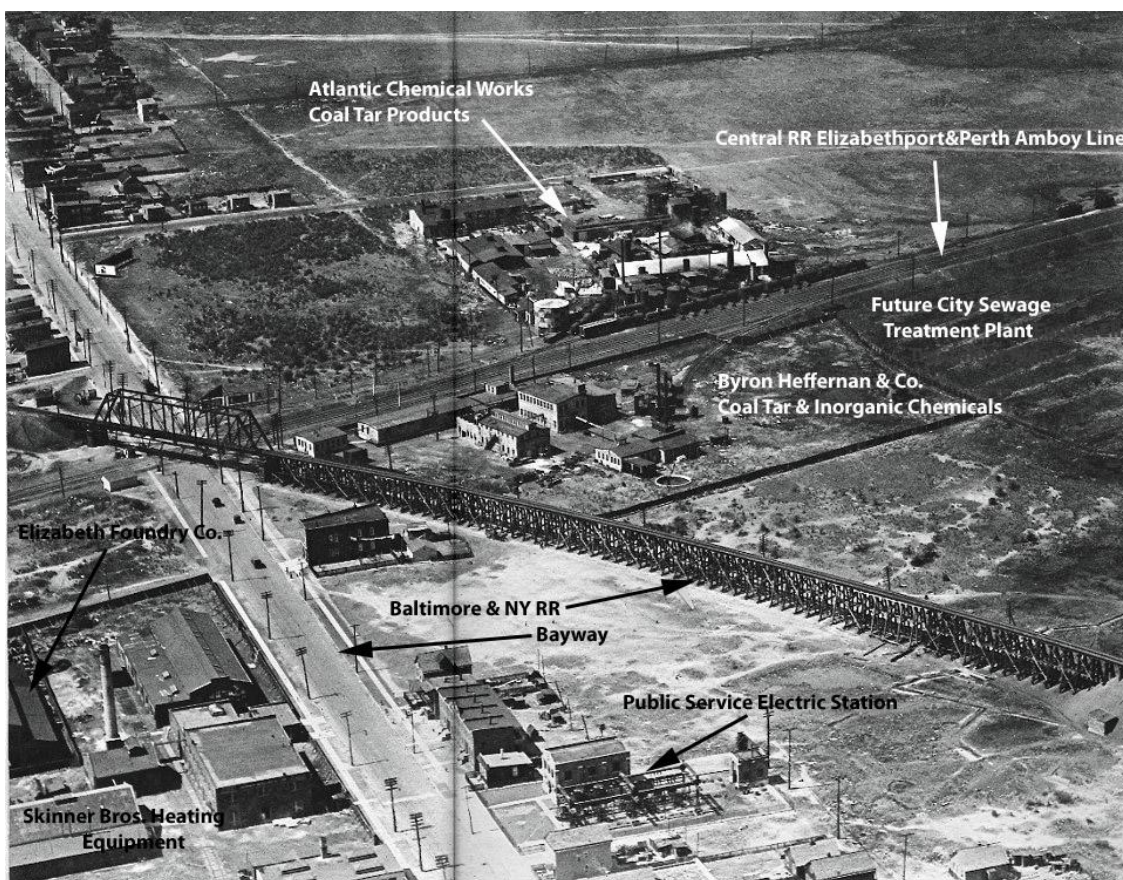
This 1923 aerial shows an impressive lineup of chemical plants along the Arthur Kill, opposite Staten Island. Today the chemical plants and their pollution are long gone with only a few storage tanks remaining. At the upper left of the bottom photo is the City wastewater treatment plant.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



1919 Trade Ad for Cook & Swan Co.

The Cook & Swan Co., located on the Arthur Kill, produced a range of oils derived from natural products. Considering the raw materials that were boiled or extracted, the neighborhood must have suffered obnoxious odors from this plant.



Industries in Bayway 1923

This 1923 aerial photo is a view of Bayway looking north. Industries in this area disappeared with the construction of the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950. However the railroad tracks remain today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Reichold Chemicals Inc. on Bayway Ave. 1946

This is a 1946 aerial photo of the Reichold Chemicals plant off Bayway Ave. The approximately 20 acre site was used by the Colwell Lead Co. in the late 19th-early 20th century. Reichold began making chemicals and resins there in 1936. It was one of the largest chemical plants in Elizabeth. The use of raw materials like phthalic anhydride and maleic anhydride resulted in neighbors complaining about odors and eye and lung irritation. Reichold closed in 1991. The buildings were demolished and the brownfield site was redeveloped with a refrigeration warehouse located there today.



van Ameringen-Haebler, Inc. on Rosehill Place

Most chemical plants in Elizabeth were located near the waterfront, but this plant was located at 417 Rosehill Place in the middle of a residential neighborhood. It began as the Commonwealth Products Corporation in the World War I era. The firm manufactured synthetic perfumes and food flavor extracts. The top map of 1920 shows the layout of the office, laboratory and production buildings, including an 18,000 gallon water tank atop a 60 ft

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

high tower. Dr. W. F. Kamm was vice president and head of research. During the war, he served in the Chemical Warfare Service in Washington, DC.

In 1917, Arnold L. van Ameringen came to the U.S. and started a business in New York importing essential oils from Holland. In 1929 he formed a partnership with a colleague, Dr. William T. Haebler. They purchased the Elizabeth aromatic chemical plant, forming van Ameringen-Haebler, Inc. For the next 30 years, with van Ameringen as president and Haebler as treasurer, van Ameringen-Haebler grew despite the difficulties of operating through a depression and World War II. During this phase in the company's history, approximately 90% of the production was in fragrances. Flavored syrups for vending machines were also made.

In 1958 van Ameringen-Haebler merged with the Dutch firm Polak & Schwarz, forming International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., becoming a major international supplier of the flavor and fragrance business. Fragrance production was moved to the IFF facility at Union Beach, NJ but the Elizabeth plant continued with flavor chemicals and the research laboratory. It closed around 1962. The plant was demolished and apartment buildings were erected there in 1964.

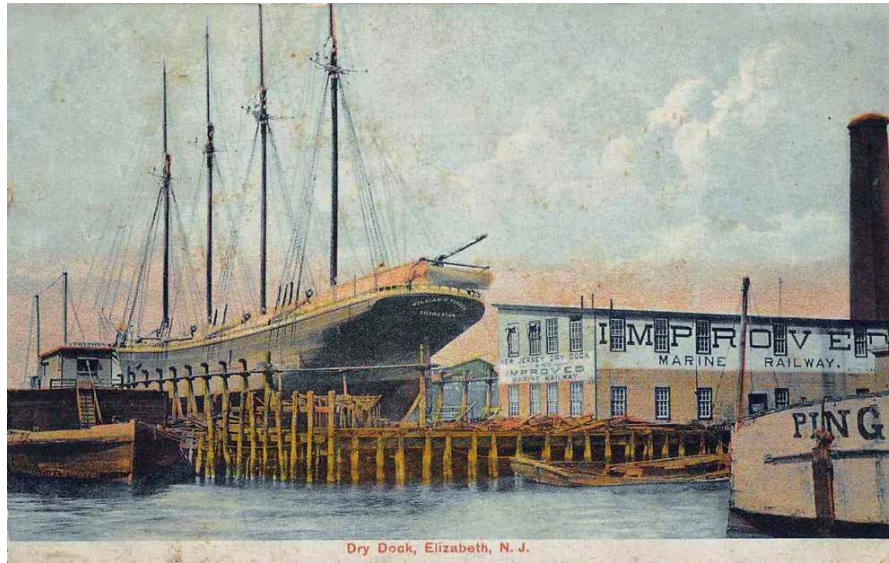


Former Site of Oscar J. Weeks Co. at Williamson and Grove Streets

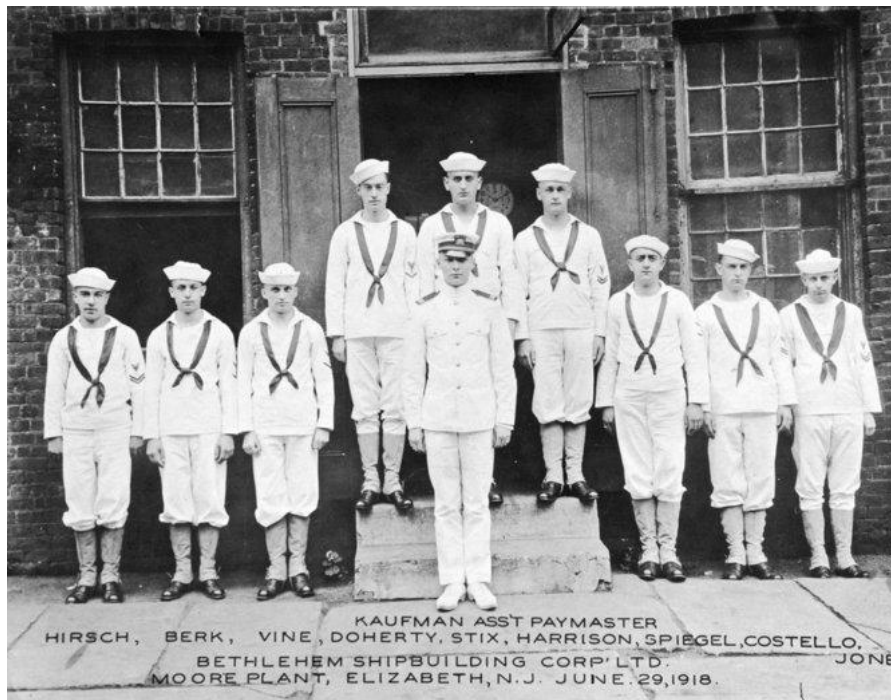
The Oscar J. Weeks Co. was located at 380 Williamson St., near the corner of Grove St., according to the 1919 City Directory. The company, with headquarters in New York, manufactured flavorings and additives for bakery, candy and ice cream products. In 1914 the company was fined for the adulteration or mislabeling of food products in violation of the Food and Drug Act of 1906. A product sold as "Grain Alcohol Varnish", a glazing for candy, was found to contain shellac treated with arsenic to give it an orange color. Another product labeled as "Fruit Wild Cherry Compound" was not a natural product but a dilute alcohol solution of the chemical benzaldehyde colored with the coal tar dye amaranth. The company was fined \$275 for the violations. Today benzaldehyde is considered safe as a food additive by the FDA, but the Weeks company was fined for the mislabeling of its product.

The company eventually folded and the site now has residential apartments as seen in the above photo.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth has a rich maritime history. This rare photo postcard shows the New Jersey Dry Dock and Transportation Co. on South Front St. near the mouth of the Elizabeth River. Wooden ships were built and repaired on the 400 foot long dry dock. Over 125 men were working there in 1918. Heidritter Lumber Co., located across the street, may have supplied lumber for shipbuilding. The New Jersey Dry Dock Co. was established in the 1880s or earlier and operated at least until the 1920s.

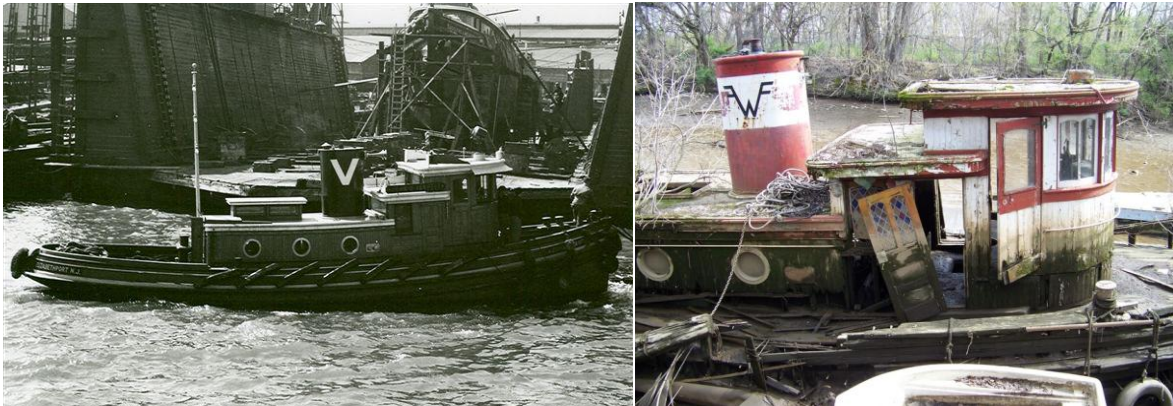


Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. at Front St. 1918

This photo of Navy personnel at the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. was taken in 1918 when Bethlehem was building ships for the wartime United States Shipping Board. The Elizabethport site, located at Front St. and the foot of Marshall St., was formerly the Lewis Nixon Crescent Shipyard. The Bethlehem Steel shipbuilding division was created in 1905 when Bethlehem Steel Corp. acquired the San Francisco shipyard, Union Iron Works. In 1917, it was incorporated as Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. During WW I Bethlehem built a million dollar plant for naval

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

vessels, employing about 1,000. Bethlehem stopped building ships at Elizabethport in 1921, but steel-making continued for many years. The site is now a waterfront park and marina.



Left: John W. Van Pelt Tugboat. Right: Van Pelt Tugboat Renamed *Wrestler*, Now Abandoned.
Photos Courtesy of Roger Stine.

Elizabeth is a port city and the Van Pelt family was an important part of its maritime history. Four generations of the Van Pelt family were connected with activities along the Elizabeth waterfront. In addition to operating a tugboat service known as Van Pelt Towing Lines, the family also engaged in marine surveying. Van Pelt captains were Eliakim Marsh Van Pelt Sr. and his sons Eliakim M. Van Pelt Jr. and John H. Van Pelt. Eliakim M. Van Pelt Sr. held a marine captain's license for fifty-five years and was formerly harbor master of Elizabeth. He was a Mason and also a member of the Marine Square Club, Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. There is an 1882 report of an E. Van Pelt operating a fish market at 24 Scott Place for many years. He used a horse and wagon to sell fish, oysters and clams throughout the city. He was a native of Staten Island and lived in Elizabeth most of his life, so he may have been the father of Eliakim M. Van Pelt Sr. Many Van Pelts served in the Civil War. Those that returned (all did not) are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in the military section. Some of the Van Pelts were early members of the Elizabeth fire department.

Eliakim M. Van Pelt Sr., who lived at 316 Fulton St., died in 1949 at age 73. John H. Van Pelt, who lived at 61 Elizabeth Avenue, died in 1951. The Van Pelts owned three tugs: a huge wood hulled vessel, a smaller wood hulled, and a steel hulled. The tugboats had a large white "V" on the smokestacks. The Moran (with the "M" mark on the stack) Lines gradually took over the market in the New York/New Jersey harbor area and the Van Pelt company was dissolved in the 1960's.

The family home on Elizabeth Avenue was large, with several related families living on different floors. It was later turned into a boarding house which has since been razed. They also had a workshop around the corner on Front Street.

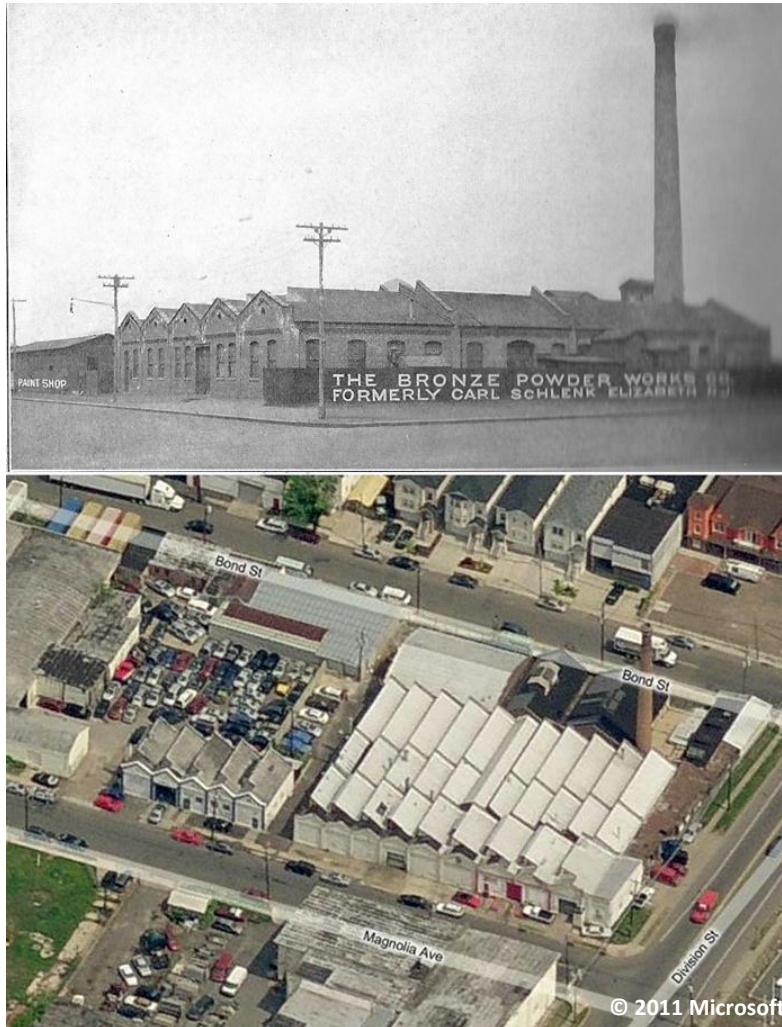
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Industrial Elizabeth

The industrial prowess of Elizabeth was on full display in this 1916 postcard titled "Rubber and Bronze Works". The Central Railroad tracks are shown alongside two factories on Magnolia Ave. at Division St. On the right was the Jenkins Rubber Co. and on the left was the Bronze Powder Works. Smokestacks were a symbol of economic progress in the World War I era.

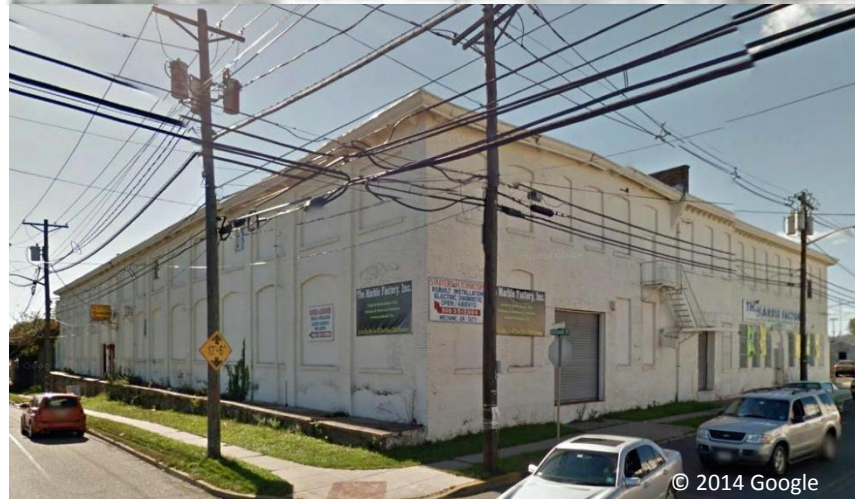
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bronze Powder Works Co on Magnolia Ave.

The Bronze Powder Works Co., formerly known as the Carl Schlenk Co., was established in the early 1900s at 801 Magnolia Avenue, corner of Division Street. The plant manufactured finely divided bronze powders for metal paints. The German ownership of the firm resulted in seizure by the US government in WW I. At that time the firm, which employed 600, had a monopoly position in the US. Americans replaced Germans on the board of directors. The business was sold to a New York company in 1918 which continued the operation. The original buildings remain today, used by an electroplating company and an auto repair business.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Jenkins Rubber Co. on Magnolia Ave. at Division St.

The Jenkins Rubber Co. was established in 1894 with a factory at 802 Magnolia Ave. at Division St., across from the Bronze Powder Works. The factory made rubber discs, packing and gaskets for the parent company Jenkins Valves of New York. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1908 and was replaced by the building seen in the top photo of 1918.

Roxalin Flexible Finishes Inc. used the building from the 1930s to the 1950s to produce coatings for wood, fabrics plastics and metals. Nuodex Products Co. also operated there, making a range of chemicals including additives for paints/varnishes, industrial biocides and agricultural pesticides. A research lab was located nearby at 1075 Magnolia Ave. Both Roxalin and Nuodex were founded by Leon Roon, a chemical engineer. Nuodex later became a division of Tenneco Chemicals.

Today the building houses a business dealing in marble, tile, counter tops and kitchen cabinets.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

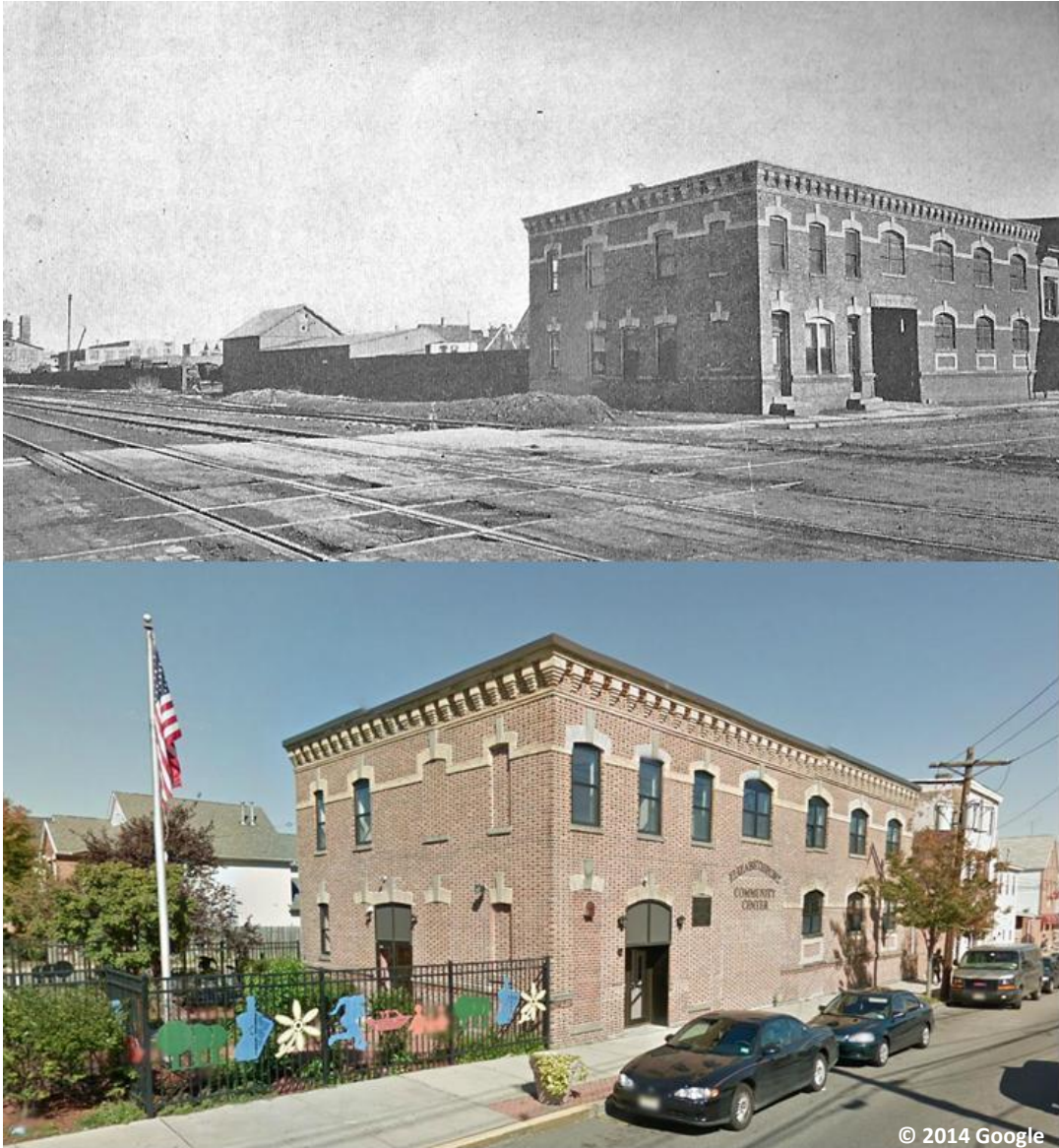


CRR Locomotive at United States Leather Company ca. 1920

The industrial prowess of Elizabeth was on display in this photo of a Central Railroad steam locomotive alongside the United States Leather Co. on Magnolia Ave. near Reid St. The United States Leather Company (1893-1952) was one of the largest corporations in the United States in the early 1900s and one of the original companies in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. The Elizabeth plant made leather for shoe soles.

Shampain, Citron and Clark, a paper box manufacturing company, took over the building by 1947. Among their products were luxury gift boxes for prominent Fifth Avenue department stores. The building was recently demolished and today the site is a vacant lot.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



David Kaufman & Sons Co. on Port Ave. and Second St.

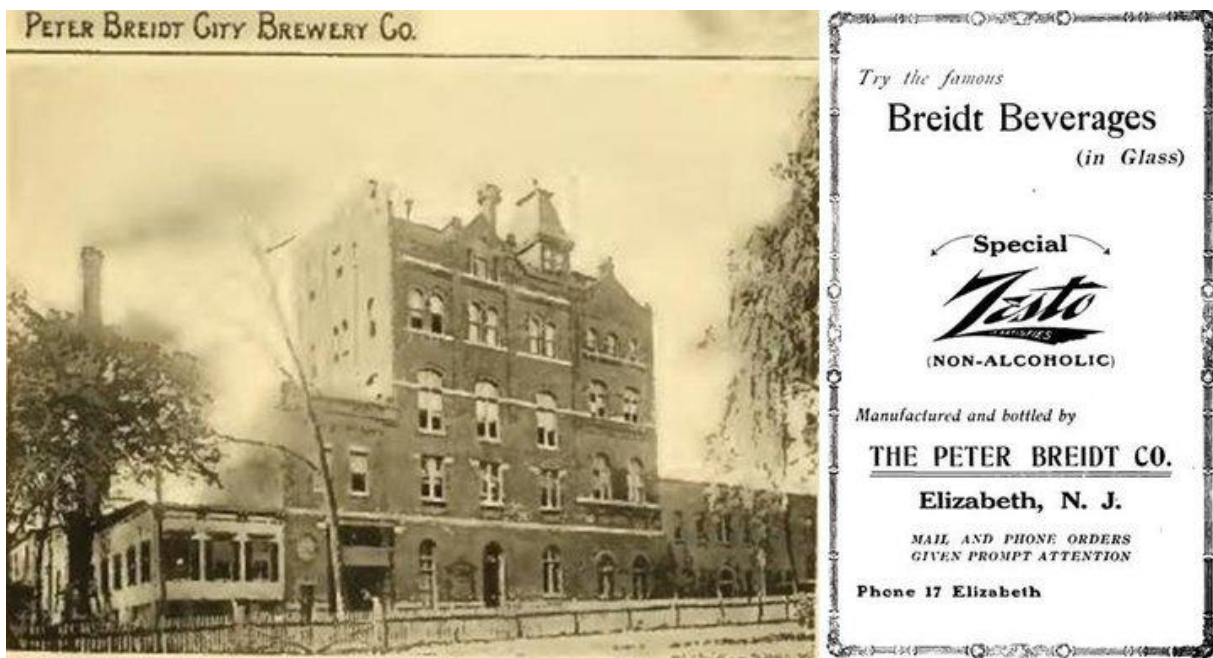
David Kaufman & Sons Co. had a thriving scrap metal business for years on Port Avenue between Second and Third Streets. In the early 1900s the firm processed millions of pounds of scrap iron from the construction of the Panama Canal and from WW I military surplus. The business later moved to Bayway. The two-story office building with ornate facade and window accents, shown in the 1907 photo at top, is used today as the Elizabethport Community Center. The scrap yard is long gone, replaced with residential housing.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Peter Breidt ca. 1900

German immigrant Peter Breidt worked in several Newark breweries before establishing the Peter Breidt City Brewery on Pearl St. in 1882. Eller & Bayer had built a brewery there in 1864 but Breidt expanded it after the acquisition.



Peter Breidt Brewery on Pearl St. 1903

When Prohibition was enacted in 1920, with New Jersey one of the last states to ratify the amendment, the Breidt brewery switched to "near beer". The brand was called "Zesto" as seen in this 1920 ad. The brewery was under a \$100,000 bond to guarantee compliance with the law not to exceed 0.5 percent alcohol. In August 1920 Prohibition agents seized 210 barrels (in bottles) at saloons in Coney Island and Brooklyn, claiming the alcohol content was slightly higher than allowed. Brewery officials said this was not intentional and that weather conditions and inefficiency in de-alcoholizing were the reasons.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Breidt resumed normal beer production when Prohibition was repealed in 1933. The brewery closed in 1951. The Southern Sash and Sales Co. used the building before it was demolished to make way for the construction of the Elizabeth High School in 1977.



Rising Sun Brewery at Seventh and Marshall Streets. 2010 Photos by R. J. Baptista.

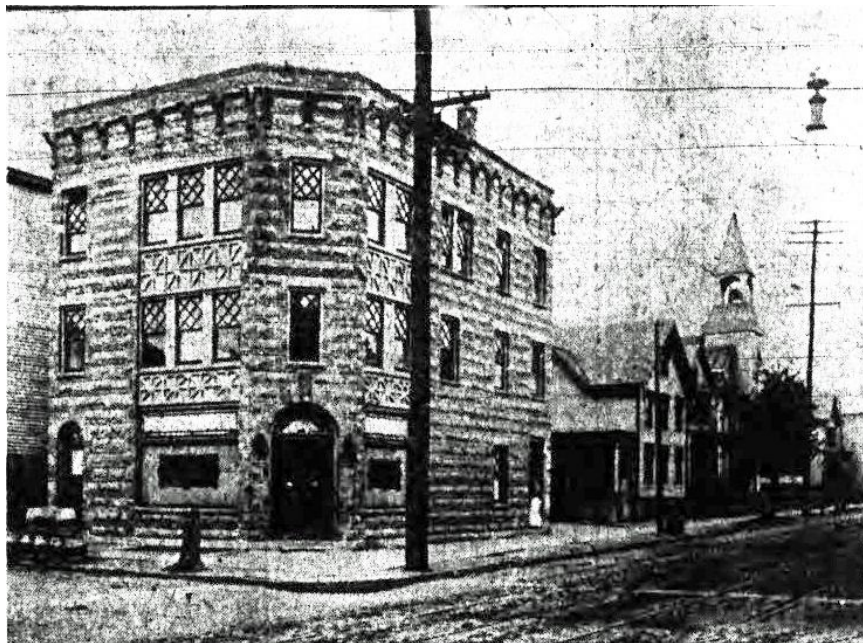
The Rising Sun Brewery was established in 1887 and was located at the corner of Seventh and Marshall Streets. During Prohibition the brewery introduced "See-Bo" nonintoxicating beer. This was "near beer", with alcohol content regulated at 0.5 percent maximum. The "See" in "See-Bo" was derived from Seeber, the name of one of the original founders of the brewery. The Seeber name was used on some brands of the beer over the years. Prohibition did not deter New York mobster Waxey Gordon from making real beer at Rising Sun, which could be bought in some Elizabeth saloons for 15 cents a glass. The Brewery was raided on Sept. 19, 1930, three days after

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

a raid on the Breidt Brewery. Federal agent named John Finello was killed at Rising Sun by vengeful mobsters. In October 1930 agents discovered a 400 ft long secret tunnel at the brewery that was used as an escape route by the killers. It led to the blacksmith shop of Julius R. Rissel at 459 Fulton St. Rissel was arrested and charged with illegal possession of beer.

August Gobel, a boiler operator at the Rising Sun Brewery, and a witness to the murder of Prohibition agent Finiello, was himself gunned down by the Mob in 1932. He was killed while working at the Christian Feigenspan ice plant in Newark, despite having police protection.

Subsequent uses of the brewery included a syrup factory and a bar supply warehouse. Growing up in Elizabeth in the 1940s-50s, I remember walking past the looming, fortress like building. On a trip back home, I took the above photos of the remnants of the brewery. The photo on the left shows the original boiler house and part of the brick smokestack still standing. The photo on the right shows the building across the street that was used for bottling the beer. These buildings date to the 1880s and are still in use.



Palace Hotel on Spring St. at East Grand St. 1907

In 1907 the Rising Sun Brewery built a 3-story hotel on the corner of Spring St. and East Grand St. at a cost of \$18,000. It was named the Palace Hotel and had unusual construction, namely concrete blocks that imitate real stone and bricks. The architect was J. Oakley & Son of Elizabeth, and the builder was Charles Eilbacher, also of Elizabeth. Eilbacher was a pioneer in the use of concrete blocks for construction. He manufactured the blocks at his facility along the Elizabeth River at the foot of Pearl St.

The hotel had a saloon, likely well stocked with Rising Sun beer. Nearby was the Mr. Zion Chapel on East Grand St., also known as the Gospel Mission. There was a state law on the books prohibiting saloons within 200 feet of a church, but the brewery built the hotel anyway because it was assumed the Mt. Zion Chapel was not a real church. However the Mt. Zion Chapel filed suit to revoke the liquor license and won the case, proving it was an actual church.

The building was listed in the 1919 City Directory as a grocery store of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. It was eventually demolished and today a Hispanic church is at the site.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Alexian Brothers Hospital on New Point Road 1907

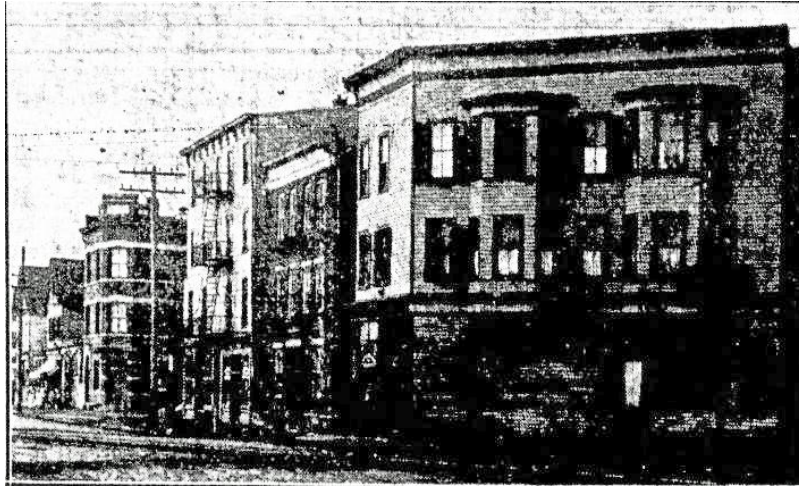
If a beer lover got sick, the best hospital to be in was Alexian Brothers, seen in this 1907 photo. There was a brewery in the basement that made 600 gallons of beer every three weeks. The German order of monks who ran the hospital produced beer for their own consumption and also for the patients, who, if their doctors gave the OK, were served beer with lunch and dinner. The Federal Government granted permission to the Brothers to keep brewing all during Prohibition. The brewery would make bock beer in the spring. It had its own water well and also supplied water to the Rising Sun Brewery just blocks away. The Alexian Brothers beer was claimed to taste better than Rising Sun beer. The hospital stopped brewing about 1950.

Several small breweries operated in Elizabeth before the Rising Sun and Breidt breweries. The P. J. Eckert brewery was located at 573 Third Ave., near Amity St., from 1878 to 1884. The beer was labeled "Weiss Bier" meaning "white beer" in German. The name comes from the yellowish-white tinge imparted by the pale malted wheat from which the brew is made.

At the time, Peterstown was a German and Irish neighborhood so Peter J. Eckert, born in Germany in 1836, settled there. The 1880 census indicated the Eckert family was living at the same address as the brewery. Family members were Peter, his wife Mary, and sons Peter, Emil, Fredrick, Charles and daughters Mary and Annie. Peter and Emil, the two oldest sons, also worked in the brewery.

It is unknown why the brewery closed in 1884. The 1889 Sanborn map shows a vacant lot there, so the brewery may have been razed or perhaps destroyed by fire. Today a residential home is at the location.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Saloons on Bayway Ave. at South Front St. 1913

In 1913 local pastors urged the City to restrict the number of saloons in Bayway and Elizabethport. Rev. Charles Mackel, pastor of St. Patrick's and Rev. Vincenty Masnick, pastor of St. Adalbert's, warned their parishioners to stay away from saloons, citing the suffering of the families of wage earners from alcohol abuse. But no action was taken until Prohibition was enacted in 1920. The row of buildings seen in this photo have been razed for the construction of a new bridge to Staten Island. This included the legendary Anchor Inn, a favorite of area workers.



Women's Christian Temperance Union on Broad St.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) of Elizabeth is seen in this 1907 photo assembling at their headquarters building at 1203 East Broad St. Perhaps they were holding a meeting or preparing to picket one of the city's many saloons.

The national organization was established in 1873 by women concerned about the destructive power of alcohol. They met in churches to pray for the souls of saloon patrons and then marched to the saloons to ask the owners to close their establishments. Another tactic was to block the entranceways of stores selling liquor.

These tactics were tame compared to the hatchet wielding destruction of saloons in Kansas by Carrie Nation, the most famous WCTU member. The six foot tall woman struck a formidable image, dressed in a black dress and bonnet and holding a Bible in one hand and a hatchet in the other. She was arrested for vandalism 30 times.

The WCTU achieved its goal in 1920 with the enactment of Prohibition. This social experiment ended badly and the law was repealed in 1933.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Hilson Cigar Co. on Livingston St.

The Hilson Cigar Co. had its main factory in New York City, employing 700 rollers and making over 20 million cigars a year. Hilson's best seller was the Hoffman House brand shown in the 1901 store display in the bottom image.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Strikes in the New York led the company to establish the factory in Elizabeth around 1900, shown in the top photo of 1907. It was located at 629 Livingston Street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets. The three story brick building, operated by steam power, was designed by Elizabeth architect William H. Hoover Jr., who also designed buildings for the Stephenson Car Works in Bayway.

In the early 20th century, sons and daughters of immigrant families in Elizabeth left school and went to work at an early age. It was legal to hire boys as young as 12 and girls as young as 14. The Hilson factory employed about 400 young women, including my aunt Annie Imbriaco Andreola who lived on Reid St. as a young girl. She remembered the factory was plagued with cockroaches. An experienced roller could make hundreds of cigars a day. They earned \$8-12 a week, with poor working conditions and no union protection.

The American Cigar Co. succeeded the Hilson Cigar Co. in 1909 but later went out of business. The building was demolished after 1954 and the site today is a paved parking lot.

The New Jersey Pretzel factory was located at 816 Livingston St. and employed deaf mutes hired through the State Department of Institutions and Agencies. The pretzel bending done by these workers was one of the few handicrafts immune to automation, at least up to the late 1930s when a pretzel making machine was invented. Philip Roth has a humorous reference to the Elizabeth pretzel factory in his 2004 book "The Plot Against America".

Photo of Hoffman House display sign courtesy of Morphy Auctions at <http://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/8118490>



Public Service Building on Livingston St. ca. 1930


The Public Service building was located at 865 Livingston St. near East Grand St. It was the operating department for the Railway Department. Nearby was a building for the storage and repair of trolleys. Note the overhead electric lines to power the trolleys. The store on the left is McCaffrey's Grill but it may have been a barber shop later.

Today the site is a vacant lot.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

JOS. W. NORTH & CO.,
MANUFACTURERS OF
Ladies' Jersey Ribbed Underwear,
MILLS, SIXTH AND FULTON STS.,
JOS. W. NORTH,
JOS. NORTH. ELIZABETH. N. J.

D. A. GILLESPIE,
Pants Manufacturer,
218 AND 220 MARSHALL ST.,
ELIZABETH, N. J.

HEYWOOD & CO.,
Shirt Manufacturers, 
218, 220 & 222 MARSHALL ST.,
ELIZABETH, N. J.

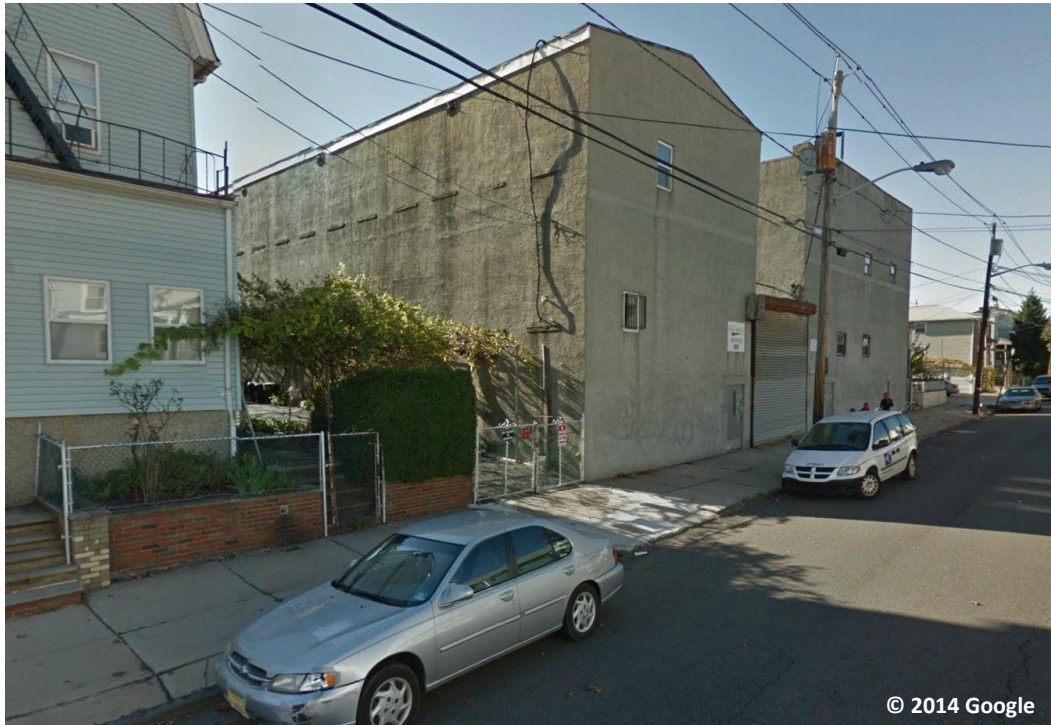
*Experienced Operators Wanted and Steady
Employment Given.*

Garment Manufacturers Ads 1893

Elizabeth was an important garment manufacturing center up to the 1960s. Some of the companies that were established in the late 19th or early 20th century were:

1) Rieke & Kahnis manufactured shirts, succeeding the firm of L.B. Churchill around 1903. They were located at 839 Cross Ave. and 230 Marshall St. The factories were equipped with high speed machines, employed 150, and produced about 5,000 men's and boy's shirts daily. Frederick Rieke was a director of the Peoples National Bank.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Rieke & Kahnis Shirt Factory on Marshall St.

These buildings at 230 Marshall St. were used by the Rieke & Kahnis shirt factory in the early 1900s.

2) D.A. (Daniel Alfred) Gillespie manufactured pants at 218-220 Marshall St. dating to 1893 or earlier. His brother John Gillespie was also involved with the business. John was married to Alice Heywood, daughter of Thomas Heywood, who owned the shirt company nearby. After John's death in 1887, Alice took over the business.

3) Heywood & Co. were shirt manufacturers located in buildings at 218, 220 and 222 Marshall St. The Rev. Thomas Heywood, a native of England and former pastor of the First Congregational Church, managed the pants and shirt businesses in the Marshall St. factories with his daughter Alice Gillespie after the death of her husband John Gillespie in 1887. Daniel Gillespie was also involved in the joint business. The firm adopted one of the first profit sharing plans in 1895. The following description is from *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. I, 1896:

"The system proposed was to divide profits into four equal parts; one to be paid to capital, one to employer, one to labor, and the fourth set aside for depreciation in plant. This plan promised a bonus of from 5 to 10 per cent. on the wages of the hundred or more employees, chiefly women. Good results were secured for a few weeks; since then carelessness and inattention have returned and idleness and irregularity as of old. The plan was abandoned after a six-months' trial. A chief motive in the adoption of the plan was the improvement of the character of the employees."

Heywood died in 1898.

4) Joseph W. North & Son started a factory at Sixth and Fulton Streets in 1891. The company made ladies' ribbed underwear which up to that time had to be imported from Germany or Switzerland. The two-story factory was expanded over the years and by 1907 employed 125 girls. The girls operated machines that knitted the fabric in rolls of 100 yards each from which the goods were cut and fabricated. They earned from \$4.50 to \$12.00 per week.

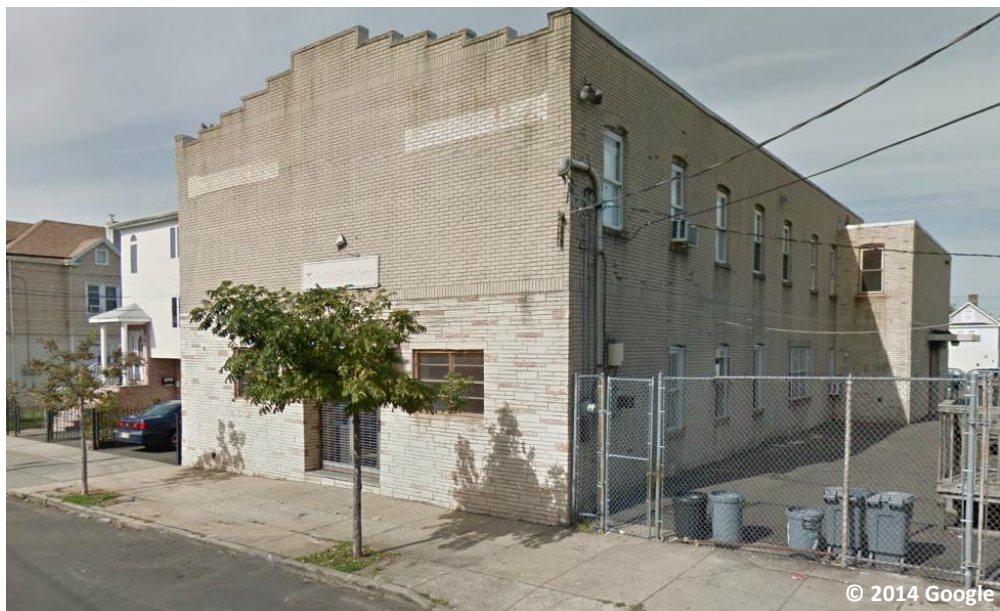
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

5) The Besco Shirt Co. succeeded the North Co. when it closed about 1922. A 1930 New York Times article said two women and a man, identified as communists, were arrested for distributing communist literature in front of the factory. The article had the headline "REDS SEIZED IN ELIZABETH".



Former Site of Besco Shirt Co. at Sixth and Fulton Streets

The Besco Shirt building was demolished after 1987. The site is occupied today by the Millenium Gardens apartments seen in the above photo.



Former Triangle Manufacturing Co. on High St.

6) The Triangle Manufacturing Co., maker of trousers, was established in the early 1920s. There were two factories in close proximity--this building at 219 High St. and another building at 30-32 High St. at the corner of Second Ave. Later other companies used these two buildings to make coats and dresses. The dress factory in this building

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

closed in the early 1970s and the building became the Don Bosco Youth Center of the nearby St. Anthony Church. The other Triangle building was demolished for a parking lot across from School 3.

7) M. E. Castles, located at 335-339 South Park St., had capacity up to 1,500 shirts, shirt waists, and undergarments per week. The company made large quantities of heavy undergarments for soldiers and sailors. The factory employed up to 175 girls in 1907 with a payroll of about \$40,000 per year. The owner, in the garment business since 1877, said he was pleased with the quality and quantity of labor in Elizabeth.

A South St. neighbor of mine, Bruno Petrosa, worked in a men's shirt factory off Elizabeth Ave., and it may have been Heywood or a successor company. In the 1950s, my mother Viola Baptista, who worked in the garment industry herself, bought some oxford dress shirts for my brother and I from the company store and they were of excellent quality.

In the early 1900s the children of immigrant families left school and went to work at an early age. It was legal to hire boys as young as 12 and girls as young as 14. The pay was low, hours long, and working conditions hazardous with no unions back then. The situation improved over time with the state raising the minimum age for workers and the success of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in representing employees. The lowering of tariff barriers in the 1960s and the development of a global economy eventually led to the disappearance of the garment industry in the U.S.



Former Atlantic Romper Co. on Atlantic St.

8) The Atlantic Rompers Company was established in the early 1920s by Samuel Kalish who lived on Linden Ave. The shop was at the corner of Atlantic St. and Second Ave. and other Atlantic shops were located on High St. and in Linden and Roselle Park. In 1935, the unionized workers, mainly women, struck the four shops for higher wages and a reduction in the 60 hour work week. The strike lasted a week and was settled by an arbitrator. The Atlantic St. shop is now the Iglesia Cristiana de Salvacion church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Shirt Company on East Broad St.

9) The Elizabeth Shirt Company, established about 1927, made shirts for boys and men in a factory building at 701 Spring St. In 1940 the firm employed 12 men and 170 women. In 1946 a larger factory was built on East Broad St. at Walnut St. that operated until the late 1970s. By that time, lower tariffs on imported clothing had put most of the Elizabeth garment shops out of business. The building is still in use today by The Leaguers Head Start, a preschool for children ages 3-4. It is the only example in the city of the conversion of a factory building into a school.

The original shirt factory on Spring St. became the Rockford Furniture store. A strip mall operates there today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Bon Ton Hat Co. on South Spring St.

There were several hat makers in the city in the late 19th and early 20th century. Henry Meyer & Co. had a large hat works at 88 Prince St. with 50 employees, mostly girls. It went bankrupt in 1891. The M.S. Levy and Sons Co. made straw hats in a building at 119 Orchard St. near Cherry St. Donner & Co., cutters and importers of hatters' furs and trimmings, had factories in London, Paris, Frankfurt and Elizabeth around 1900. Their Elizabeth factory was at the corner of South Broad and Grove Streets. The hat firm of Nathan Goldstein was located at 70 West Grand St.

The Bon Ton Hat Co. was located in a building at 123 First St. in 1919 but by the 1930s had moved to 35 South Spring St., the large building shown in the above photo. The firm was owned by Abe Tarnowner and his brother who also owned a millinery factory in New York. They located in Elizabeth in order to avoid labor union strife in New York. But labor troubles took place in Elizabeth too, with 125 workers revolting for higher wages.

Hat manufacturing presented serious health hazards to workers. The Levy hat company on Orchard St. used sulfur smoke to bleach straw. This involved placing hot coals in a bed of sulfur in an enclosed room. The resulting sulfur dioxide irritated the eyes and choked the lungs of workers. Working with steam in confined spaces increased the risk of tuberculosis. The use of mercuric nitrate to prepare felt for hats exposed workers to mercury poisoning at the Donner hat factory. The neurotoxic effects included tremors known as "hatters' shakes". In 1878, inspection of 25 firms around Newark revealed mercuric disease in 25 percent of the hatters. Europe regulated the use of mercury in hat making by 1900, but in the U.S. mercury continued to be used until 1941.

Wearing hats became less popular in the 1960s. Hat making in the city had disappeared years earlier.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

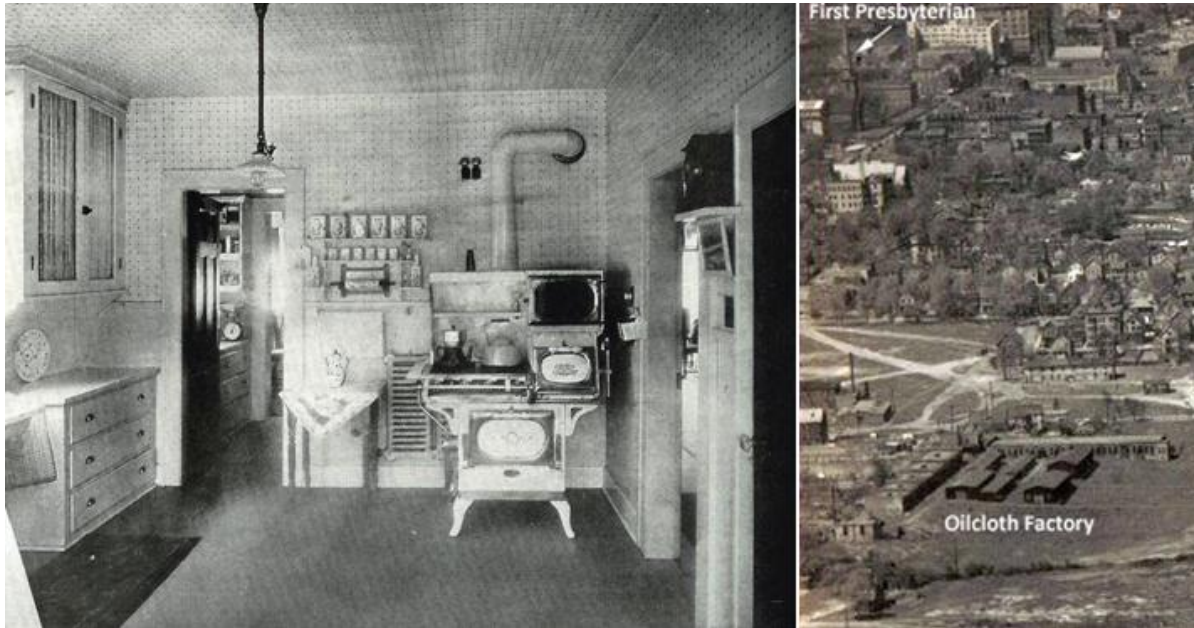


Wilton Royal Carpet Factory in England

Elizabeth had only one carpet mill, built in 1892 on a one-acre site in the Port by the Wilton Carpet Works of England. There were two three-story brick buildings, each with dimensions of 150 by 50 feet. Fine quality Axminster and Wilton brand carpets were made by hand-tufted weaving. The factory employed thirty to fifty women and girls. English workers were brought in for their expertise and supervision of the operation. Wilton carpet was used to upholster the seats of trolley cars manufactured at the J.W. Fowler Car Co., also located in the Port. However the carpet mill was not profitable and closed at the end of 1900.

Photos of the Elizabeth mill could not be located. The photo at top left shows women weaving Axminster carpets at the Wilton factory in England around 1920. The photo at top right shows a Wilton carpet dating to the 1890s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Oilcloth on Ceiling and Walls of Kitchen. Right: Former Oilcloth Factory on Williamson St. 1923

Oilcloth was once a common feature of home décor. It was a heavy cotton or linen cloth with a linseed oil coating, making it semi-waterproof. The oilcloth could then be printed with a decorative pattern. The most familiar use was for brightly colored kitchen tablecloths, but as shown in the early 1900s kitchen on the left, oilcloth was also applied to ceilings and walls. Other uses included window shades, floors, and upholstery.

Elizabeth was the leading center of oilcloth manufacture in the U.S. in the late 19th century. Firms included Albro Oilcloth Co., Eastern Manufacturing Co., Elizabeth Oil-Cloth Co., John Jewett & Sons Floor Cloth Works and the Union Oil Cloth Co. Most were located in the Port section, but one company, Virolet & Durlach, was at the foot of Williamson St. and Grove St. The abandoned buildings are shown in the 1923 aerial photo on the right.

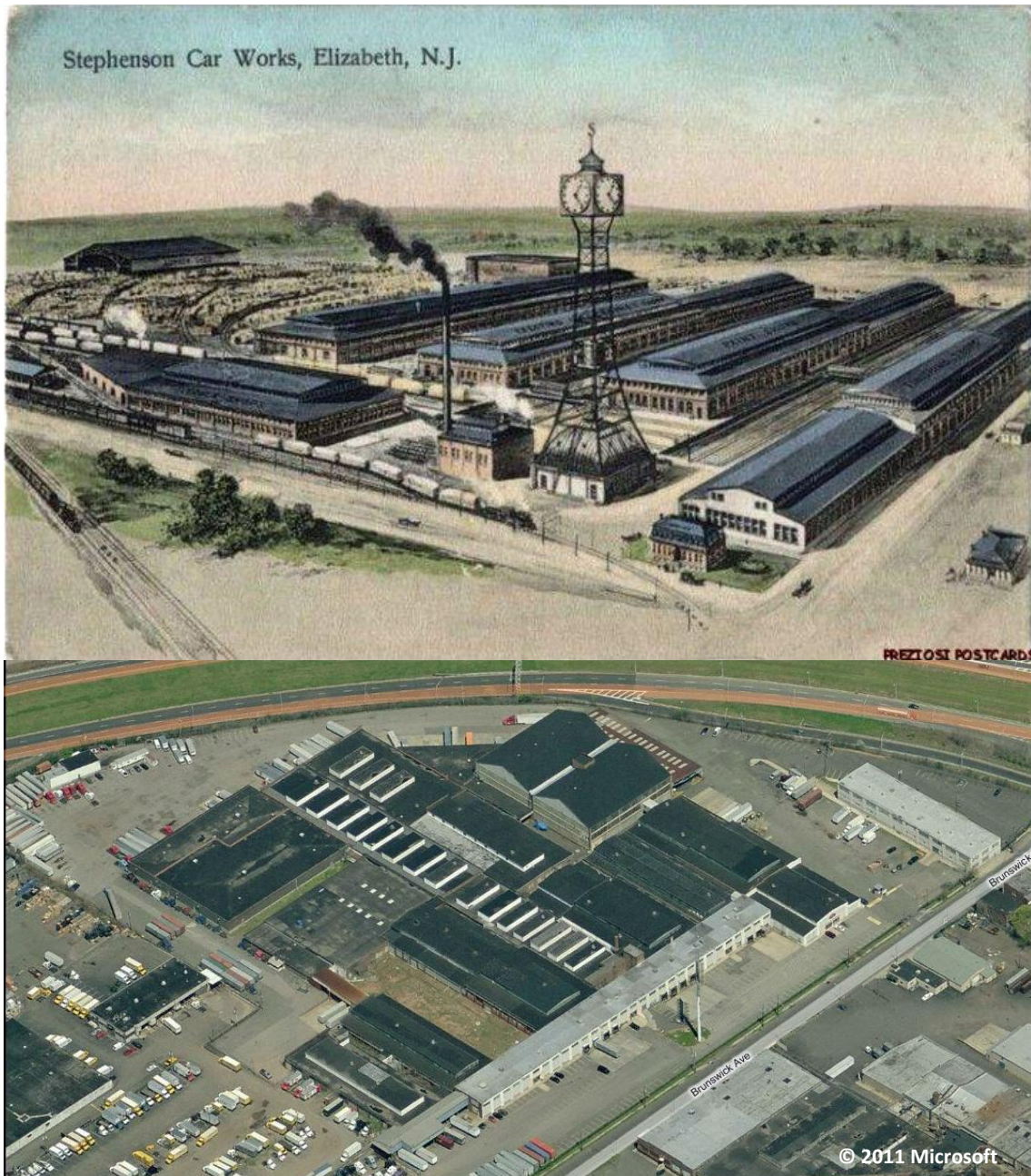
Oilcloth production required a large amount of capital and sufficient acreage for large buildings. The Jewett Co. was in the Port, had buildings up to 225 by 75 feet in size, and employed 60 men. The Elizabeth Oil-Cloth Co. had six buildings on Second St. and employed 40 men.

The process started with cutting canvas and stretching it on an upright wooden frame. Glue size was brushed on the back of the fabric; after drying the linseed oil coating was put on with a trowel. The procedure was repeated on the front. The fabric was then sent to the printing room, placed flat on tables, and hand printed with engraved wood blocks of different colors. The entire process took two to three months.

The use of flammable raw materials led to fires which destroyed some of these factories. The Williamson St. site, near today's Grove St., became a residential area. By the late 1950s, oilcloth was made from vinyl (polyvinyl chloride) bonded to either a flannel cloth or a synthetic non-woven backing.

Arnold Samuelson: "Jean Baptiste Virolet (1821-1891), a Frenchman who was naturalized in 1856, began manufacturing oil cloth as the J.B. Virolet Co. in 1865 or earlier at 340 Williamson St. In 1876 the firm was known as Virolet & Durlach after Isaac Durlach (ca. 1830-1890) came on. By 1879 the company had moved to 122 Church St. in New York. Durlach, who also was in the glue business, lived in New York as did Virolet, who made frequent trips to France. About 1895 Hannah Durlach, Isaac's widow, and some of her adult children moved to 700 South St. in Elizabeth. The Durlach family returned to New York about six years later."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Site of Stephenson Car Works on Brunswick Ave.

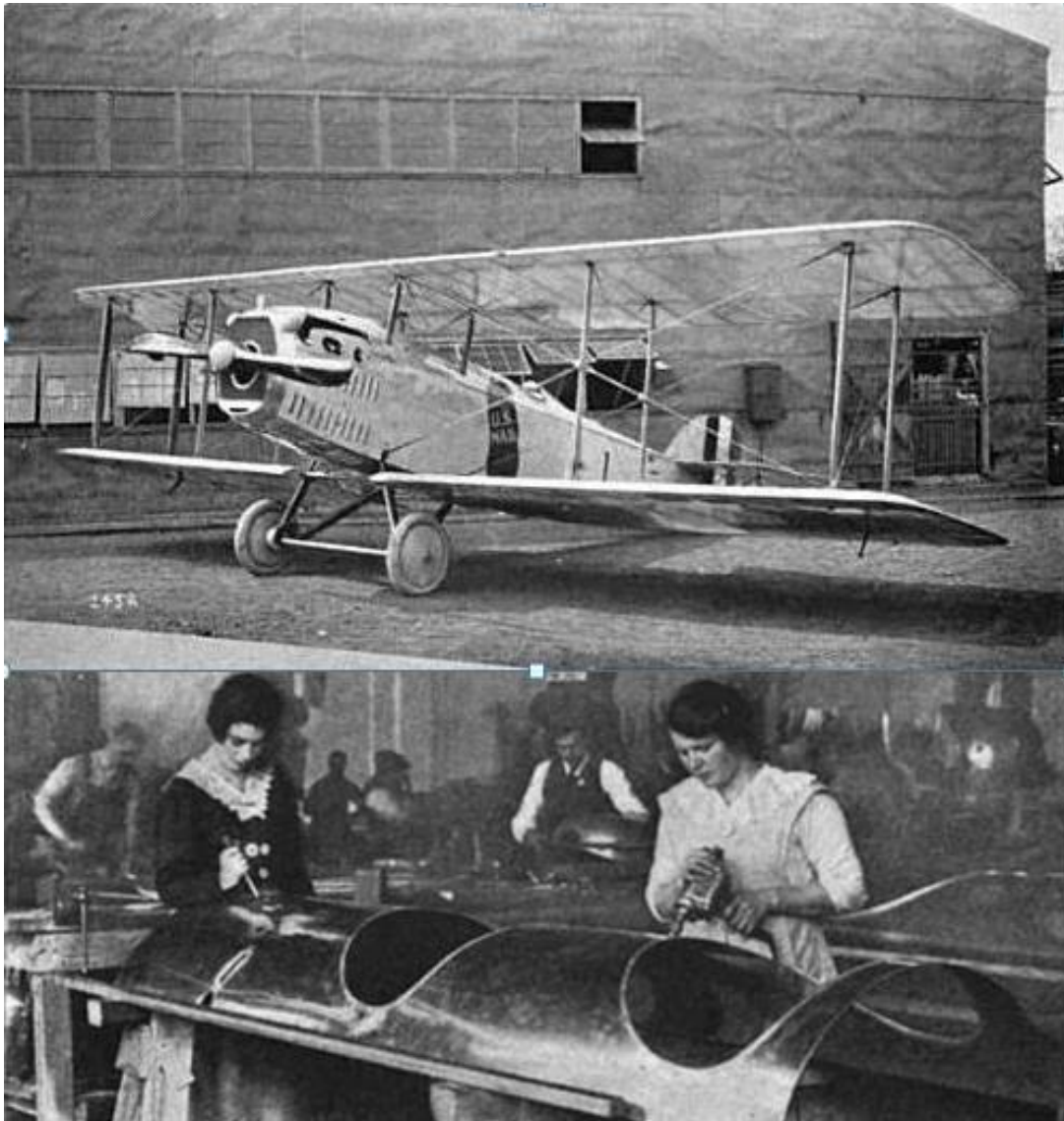
John Stephenson began building carriages in New York City in 1831 and became a railcar builder during the street railway boom of the 1850's. He progressed from making horse cars to cable and then electric cars, manufacturing 25,000 streetcars for the US and abroad between 1876 and 1891.

The Stephenson plant was moved to Elizabeth in 1898. In 1904 it was acquired by the J.G. Brill Co. of Philadelphia, with production of the wooden railcars continuing under the Stephenson name. One of the largest clocks in the world was installed at the site in 1907. The 330 ft. tower was especially built for the electric powered clock, which was 38 ft in diameter with 18 ft hands. The tower was illuminated at night and the clock was visible for miles around.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

But the Stephenson plant was not equipped to make steel cars and as they became more popular, production at Elizabeth slowed. Brill stopped car building at Elizabeth in 1917 and the plant was sold to the Standard Aircraft Co. for the production of military and air mail planes.

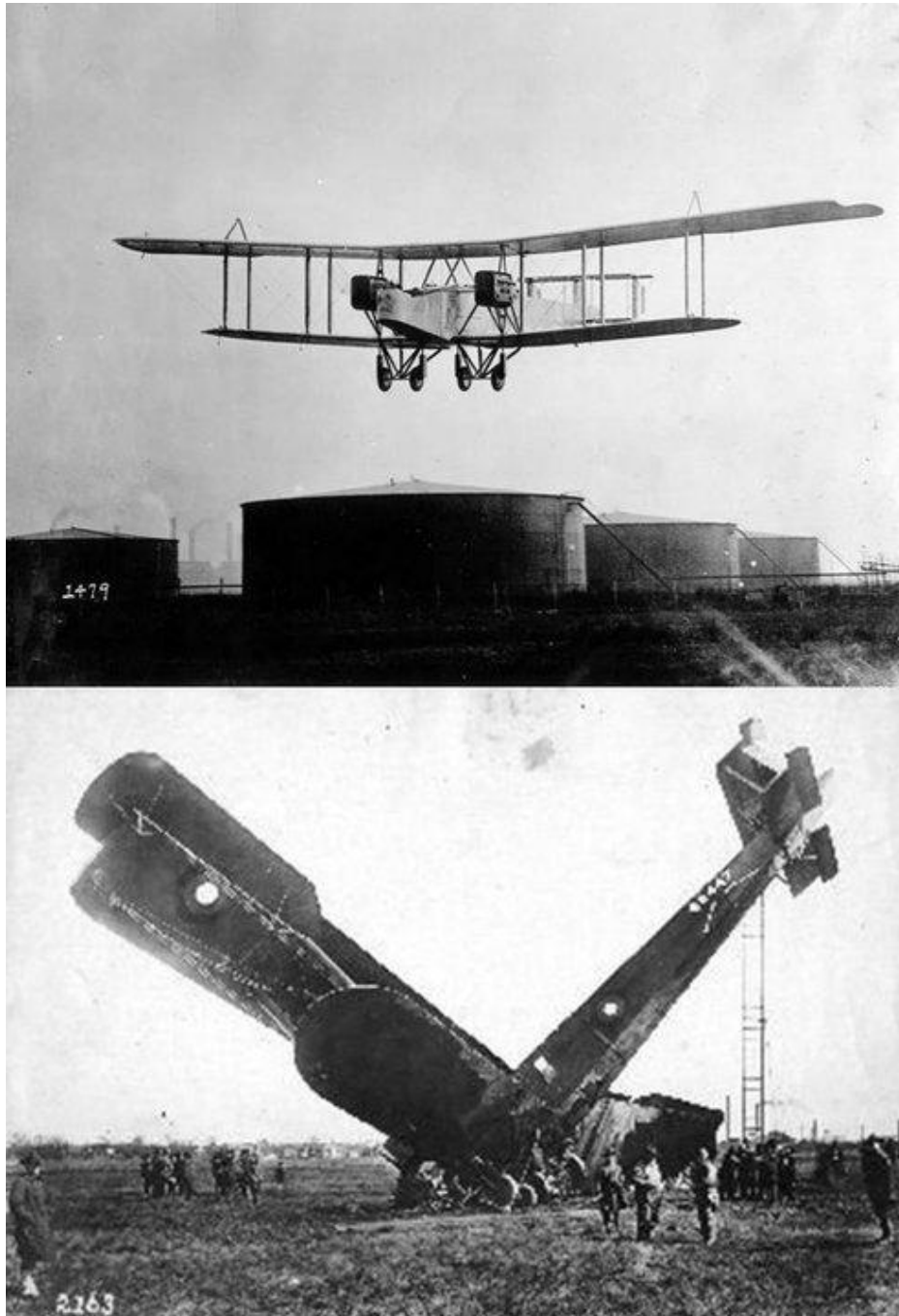
The buildings were occupied for years by the Simmons Bedding Company. Several companies operate at the site today. The Brunswick Ave. site is now part of the Bayway section of Linden.



Standard Aircraft Co. in World War I Era

One of the biggest employers during World War I was the Standard Aircraft Co. with 6500 workers in plants in Elizabeth and Plainfield. The company took over the huge manufacturing complex of the John Stephenson Trolley Co. at the juncture of Bayway and Brunswick Avenues. They built military and airmail planes. The company had its own airfield on site. These photos show the JR-1B model airmail plane ready for delivery to the US Post Office and women employees working on a fuselage.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Handley Page O/400 Twin Engine Bomber

The Standard Aircraft Co. manufactured 107 Handley Page O/400 model twin engine bombers based on a British design. The plane entered service in April 1918 and was used for strategic bombing and support of the ground forces on the Western Front. The huge plane had a wingspan of 100 feet, two Liberty engines of 400 hp each, and a range of 600 miles. It carried 2,200 pounds of bombs and had five Browning machine guns. It had a crew of 4-5 men in open cockpits.

The top photo shows the bomber in flight over the Standard Oil tanks. This plane was christened the "Langley" in a ceremony at the Bayway plant on July 6, 1918. On March 10, 1919 one of the bombers was on a flight to

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Philadelphia, carrying a piano in its bomb bay as a test. The plane nose-dived into the Elizabeth River mud flats after takeoff, as shown in the bottom photo. The plane was piloted by Norbert Carolin and had seven Army officers aboard. There was only one injury.



Handley-Page O/400 Airplane of Standard Aircraft Co. in Bayway

The top photo is a remarkable in flight view of a Handley-Page O/400 airplane in route from Elizabeth to Ellington Field, Houston, Texas in early 1919. The plane carried eleven men on the 1,525 mile trip which took total flight time of about 25 hours, making multiple refueling, repair and bad weather stops along the way. The flight was an early demonstration of airline passenger service in a bomber manufactured during WW I at the Standard Aircraft Bayway factory (bottom photo). An airfield adjoined the site.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



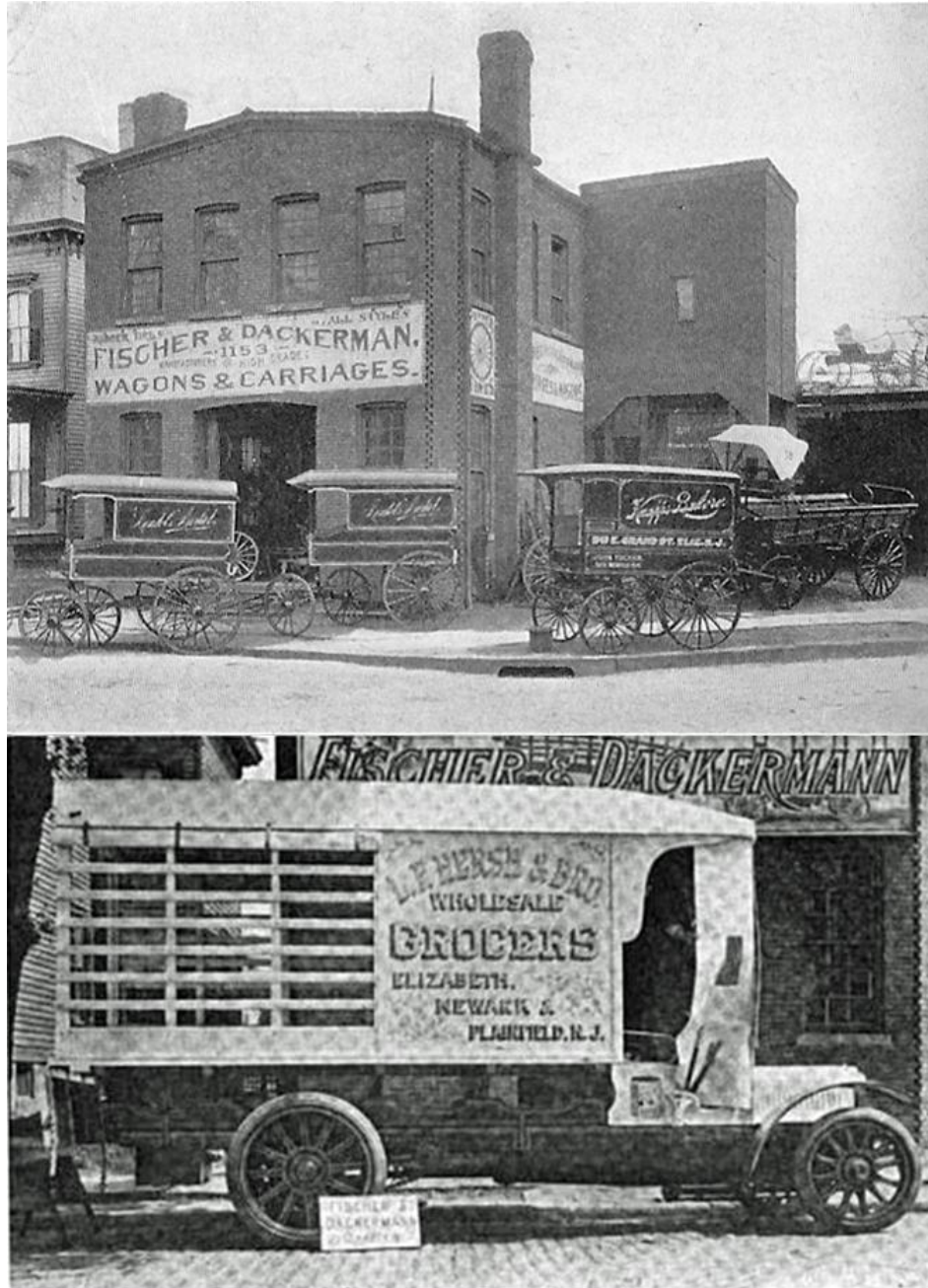
Left: Loyalty Oath at Standard Aircraft Co. Right: World War I Poster Warns of German Spies

German immigrants made important contributions to the growth of the city since the middle of the 19th century. Many of the retail stores were owned by Germans and skilled German workers helped Elizabeth become a major tool and machinery manufacturing center. But the outbreak of World War I in 1914 polarized the city and anti-German sentiment ran strong. Explosions in U.S. chemical and munitions plants were attributed to sabotage by German agents and the government put up posters warning the population of German spies. This 1917 photo of Standard Aircraft Corp. employees taking a loyalty oath illustrates how serious the threat of sabotage was taken. Harry B. Mingle, president of the company, had the nationality of all employees investigated and demanded they take the oath in front of an authorized public official.

Government orders for planes were cancelled at the end of World War I and Standard Aircraft went out of business. In May 1919 the factory was sold to the Simmons Mattress Company which occupied the site for many years.

Anti-German feelings continued after the war. The First German Presbyterian Church membership fell from 333 before the war to 118 in 1919. In 1927 the church bought land on Magie Avenue and dedicated a new church in 1936 with the name Elmora Presbyterian Church. Services in the German language were dropped.

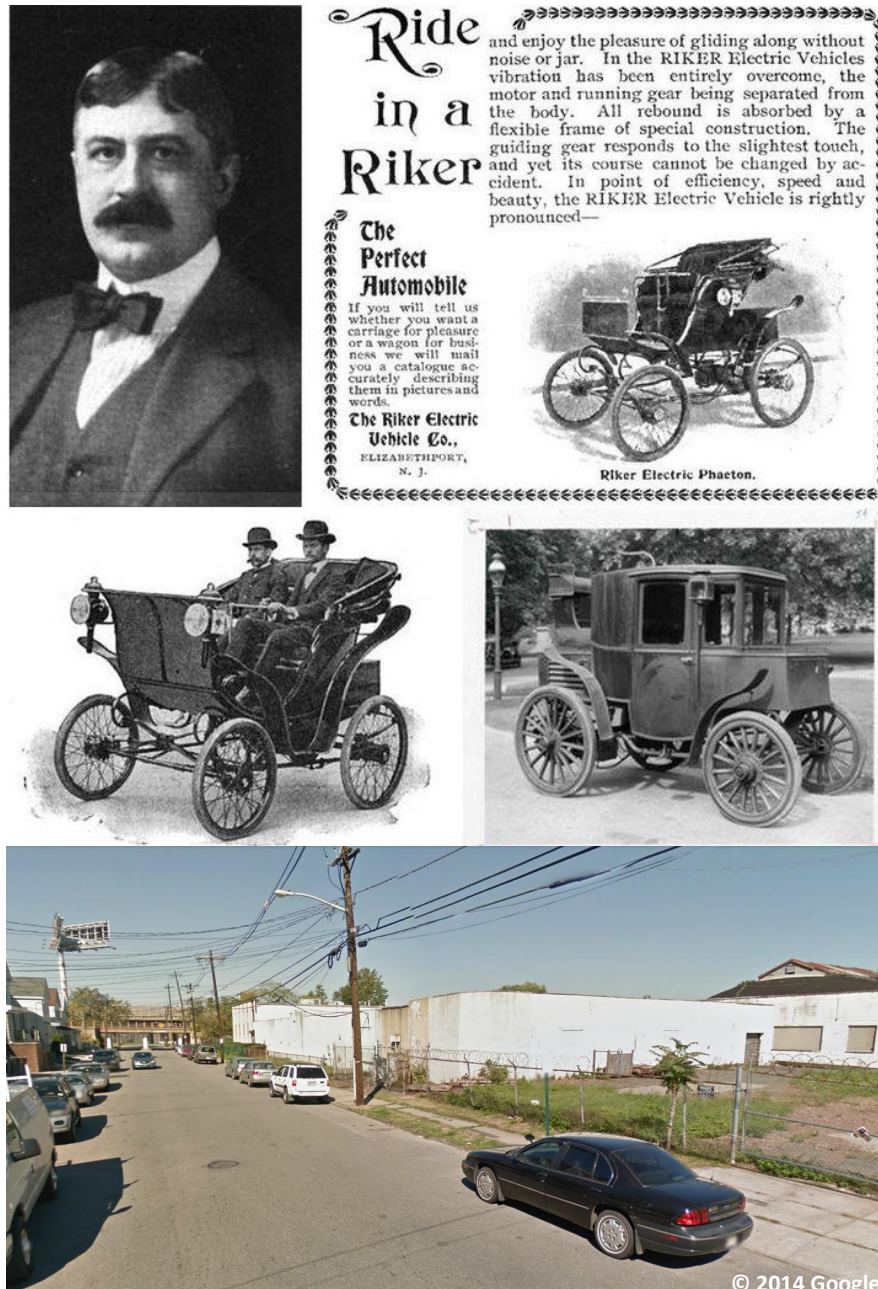
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Fischer & Dackerman Wagon Manufacturer on East Broad St.

Elizabeth had several companies manufacturing wagons in the 19th century. Fischer & Dackerman made wagons and carriages at East Broad and Chestnut Streets. The top photo dates to 1907. The enclosed wagon on the right was built for Knapp's Bakery (East Grand St. and Jefferson Ave.). By 1913 the firm was making fewer wagons and had expanded their business to truck and auto bodies. The truck shown in the bottom photo was built for the L. F. Hersh Grocers and had a 37 hp engine and load capacity of five tons. Louis Hersh later became president of the Union County Trust Co. and erected the 14-story Hersh Tower on the corner of East Grand and Broad Streets in 1931.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Riker Electric Vehicle Co. on Pine St.

The Chevy Volt electric vehicle was introduced in 2011 but battery powered cars were made in Elizabeth way back in 1898. Andrew L. Riker of Brooklyn built an electric tricycle in 1884 and formed the Riker Electric Motor Co. in 1888. The brilliant young auto engineer established the Riker Electric Vehicle Co. in the port section of Elizabeth in 1898. The factory was located at Pine and Third Streets. The company was well capitalized at \$5.0 million.

The Electric Vehicle Co. acquired the Riker firm in 1900 to expand its production of battery powered taxicabs for large cities. In 1901 the Elizabethport plant closed. The taxicabs failed in service and the Electric Vehicle Co. went bankrupt in the 1907 recession. Andrew Riker had switched to designing luxurious gasoline powered autos in 1902. The photos and ads for Riker electric vehicles (Phaeton model upper right and Victoria model lower left) date to around 1900. The bottom photo shows several of the original Riker buildings still standing along Pine St.

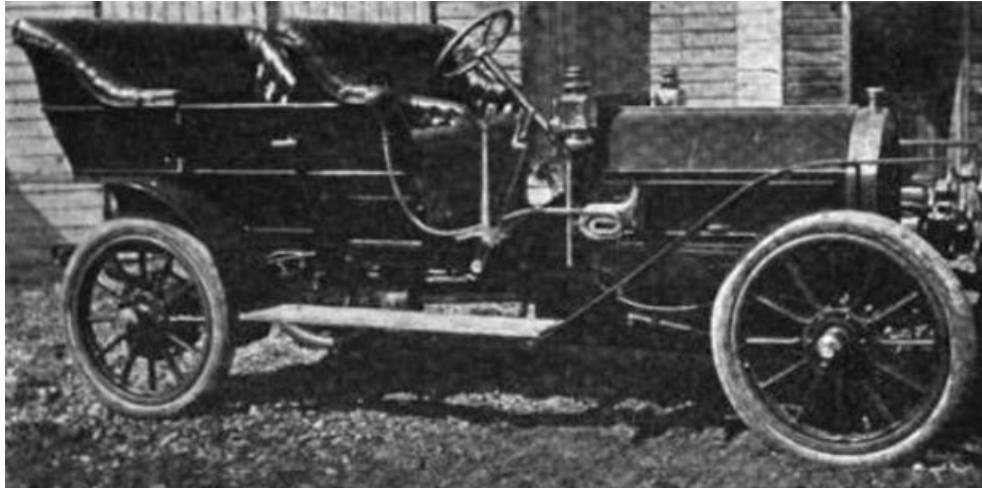
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



1903 Mackle-Thompson Runabout and Chassis

One of the earliest autos made in Elizabeth was the 1903 Mackle-Thompson Runabout shown in the top photo; the chassis is shown in the bottom photo. The Mackle-Thompson Automobile Co. of Elizabeth manufactured this light runabout driven by a 5 horsepower air cooled motor, placed in front under a hood. The wheels were of the artillery type, 30 inches in diameter and fitted with 2.5 inch tires. The ignition current was furnished by a dynamo with no battery required. The gas tank was claimed to last for a run of 200 miles. The car weighed only 650 pounds and was said to have a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour. This was the only model made by the short lived company.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



1909 Correja Made by Vandewater & Co.

Vandewater & Co. was one of several early auto manufacturers based in Elizabeth. Frank C. Vandewater and Edwin Vandewater started the business in Rahway, producing the Eagle car in 1906. Manufacturing was then moved to Iselin and in 1910 to Elizabeth. The firm leased the 40,000 sq. ft. Heidritter building on Prince St. near Irvington Ave. The Correja model was produced there until 1915 when the firm went out of business. By 1954 the factory building was demolished to make way for new buildings and a parking lot.



Duesenberg Motors Corp. on Newark Ave.

This impressive water fountain was not located on a millionaire's estate on North Broad St. or in a city park, but at the Duesenberg Motors Corp. plant along Newark Ave. The 187,000 sq. ft plant on nine acres was built by Duesenberg Motors in 1917-1918 to manufacture automotive and aviation engines, employing 1,200. The building in the rear was erected in 1918 to test aviation engines. The engines were cooled with water which was recycled

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

to the fountain to release absorbed heat. The concrete fountain was 50 feet in diameter and handled 75,000 gallons of water a minute. The engine exhaust was removed from the building with two 85 foot high smokestacks.

In 1919 Duesenberg moved to Indianapolis and the Elizabeth plant was taken over and expanded by John N. Willys of the Willys-Overland Company. Willys poured millions of dollars into the plant for the Chrysler Motor Company, a division of Willys, but ran out of money before production began.



1929 Durant Sedan and Former Durant Building on Newark Ave.

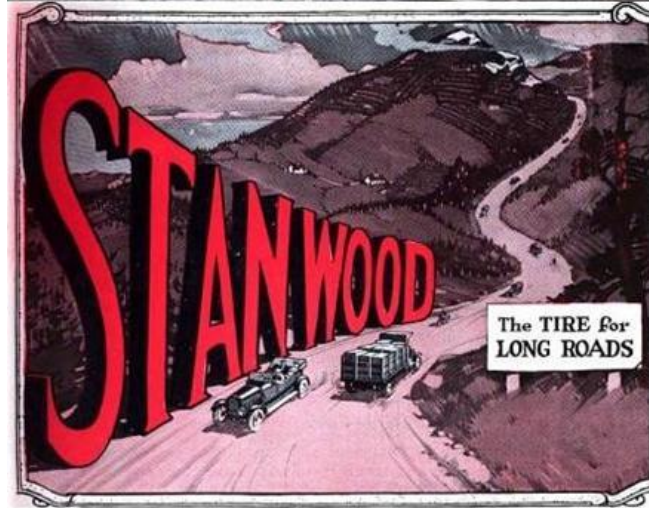
Auto industry pioneer W. C. Durant formed Durant Motors Inc. in 1921. He purchased the defunct auto assembly plant on Newark Ave. The Elizabeth plant was considered one of the largest and most modern assembly plants in the country. In October 1922, Durant announced that the new Star models, with four or six cylinders, would be made in Elizabeth. The first Star rolled out of the plant in November 1922. By 1927 there were 1,000 workers at the plant. My uncle Nunzio Imbriaco worked there when he was a young man, installing seat covers. The top photo shows a 1929 Star sedan. But by 1931, Durant was out of business and the Elizabeth plant was abandoned.

One of the first supermarkets in the U.S. was Big Bear which opened in 1932 in the vacant Durant auto plant. Known as the "Price Crusher", the store occupied 50,000 sq ft and sold both groceries and general merchandise like drugs, radios, hardware, auto accessories and paint. There was even a soda fountain and lunch counter. The concept of selling groceries and general merchandise would later be adopted by Walmart.

The building was later used by the Burry Biscuit Co. and other companies. I visited the building as a chemist in 1973 to observe pilot tests on a new product for detergents that required spray drying. The spray drying firm had installed the spray tower inside one of the old dip tanks used for rust-proofing vehicles.

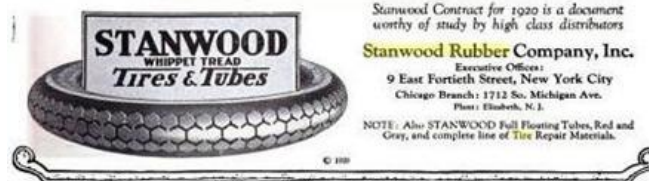
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Burry building was destroyed by fire in 2011 and demolished in 2014. Plans for redevelopment of the multi-acre site have not been announced.



STANWOOD MILEAGE is the character of Service demanded by the modern motorist as a right. Mileage that is not only long-drawn-out but CARE FREE. Wrought into the substance of STANWOOD TIRES—Cord, Fabric and Truck Pneumatic—is an immense faculty for resisting the forces that punish in action.

ESSENTIALLY THE TIRE FOR LONG ROADS



Stanwood Rubber Co. on Newark Ave.

The future of the auto industry in Elizabeth looked bright in the early 1920s, with Durant Motors planning to startup a huge plant on Newark Ave. and the Stanwood Rubber Company's tire plant right next door. Stanwood Rubber was incorporated in 1919 and acquired a three-story brick and reinforced concrete plant, with 67,000 sq ft of floor space, on a seven acre site along Newark Ave. The property was bounded on the north by Virginia St. and on the east by the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. The building was erected in 1915 by Diehl Manufacturing Co. but was only used by Diehl a few years.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Stanwood had acquired new technology to manufacture cord tires which were expected to replace inferior fabric based tires. The plant had capacity for production of 1,000 tires and 2,000 tubes daily. Sales were projected at \$6.0 million the first year of operation. The plant started up in 1920 but the sales and production goals were never realized. The company went bankrupt in 1921. A reorganization took place and production resumed for a brief period, but the successor company also failed. Durant Motors went out of business at the onset of the Depression, dimming Elizabeth's plan to become a major auto production center.

In 1922 the Stanwood Rubber plant was acquired by the Schweitzer Paper Co. Peter J. Schweitzer was a Russian immigrant who acquired his first paper mill in 1920 in Jersey City. His sons Louis and William converted the Elizabeth plant into a mill to manufacture cigarette paper from flax pulp. This led to Schweitzer's rapid growth in the 1930s-1940s when the firm became a key supplier to Philip Morris and other major cigarette brands. In 1942 the Elizabeth mill had 700 workers and Schweitzer became the first company in the U.S. to cover employees with a medical-surgical health care plan. Kimberly-Clark purchased the Schweitzer business for \$18 million in 1957. The Elizabeth plant closed in 1976. The site appears vacant today.

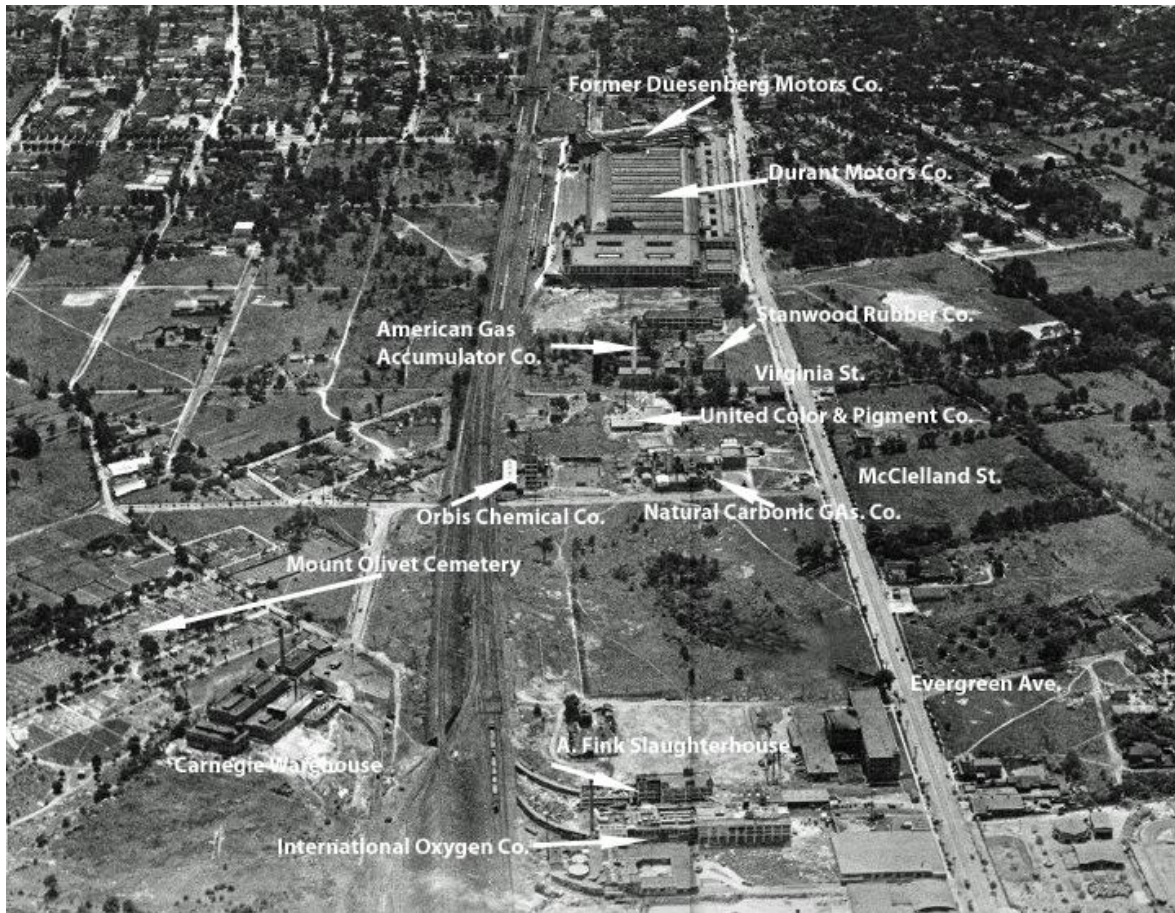


Traffic Control Light by American Gas Accumulator Co.

This photo illustrates an early lighted traffic control device. The beacon was lit with acetylene gas generated internally from the reaction of water with powdered calcium carbide. The carbide supply had to be replenished three to four times a year. Acetylene provided a much brighter light than oil. The device was the invention of the American Gas Accumulator Co. which had a factory on Newark Ave., north of the Durant building, but still inside the Elizabeth city line.

The firm also supplied acetylene powered lamps for lighthouses, buoys, airfields, and even the Panama Canal. As electrical power became more available, the firm transitioned to devices lit by electricity. The factory buildings at the site were recently demolished.

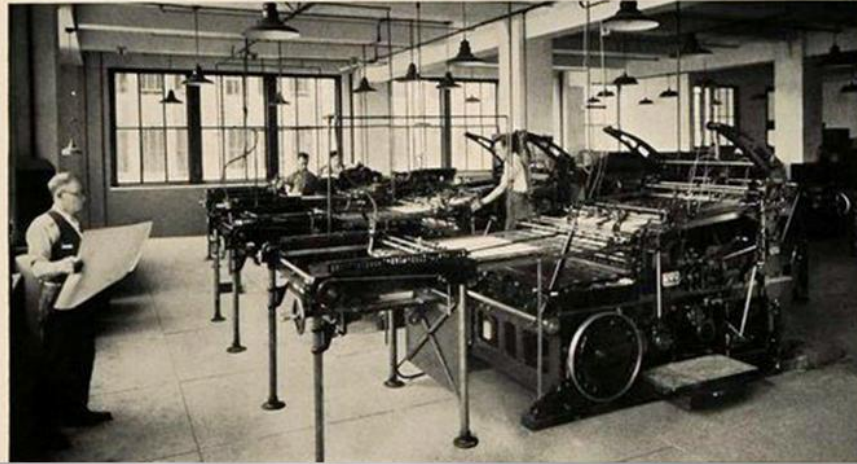
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Industries Along Newark Ave. 1923

This 1923 aerial photo shows the transformation of the rural area at the Newark-Elizabeth border into a major manufacturing complex. Most of the manufacturing and chemical plants were built after World War I. The proximity to the Pennsylvania Railroad and a skilled labor supply were major factors in the industrial development. Some of these buildings remain today with different uses; others have been demolished or are derelict reminders of the Elizabeth's former manufacturing prowess.

KELLY PRESSES



© 2011 Google

American Type Founders Co. on Elmora Ave

The American Type Founders Co., located at Elmora Ave. and West Grand St., closed in 1993 after a long history as a leading producer of metal type and printing presses for the printing industry. The company was established in 1892 and built a plant in Jersey City. The business expanded in 1923 with the construction of the sprawling Elizabeth plant, which cost \$1.0 million, equivalent to \$12.7 million today. In 1935 ATF transferred the Jersey City operations to Elizabeth, making it the largest type foundry in the country. The plant also manufactured Kelly automatic printing presses shown in the top photo.

In its heyday, ATF manufactured metal type of renowned artistic quality and technical excellence. Famous type designer Morris Fuller Benton was ATF's chief of design for many years. His designs remain popular today, including Franklin Gothic, Garamond, Broadway, and Century Schoolbook.

During World War II the Elizabeth plant manufactured a 76 millimeter tank gun for the Army. In 1947 ATF moved its photo-mechanical division from Chicago to Elizabeth. The company introduced a six-color rotogravure press in

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

1950, designed for faster printing of labels and cardboard cartons. Increased use of offset presses caused ATF to curtail production of the Kelly letterpress in 1954. The Elizabeth plant employed 650 workers in 1965 compared to over 900 in 1937. In the late 1960s the company developed the first low cost phototypesetter which had worldwide sales.

Printing technology changed again with the introduction of the Apple Mac personal computer and desktop publishing in 1984. This spelled the end of the metal type industry. Today anyone with a personal computer and special software can design fonts.

The former ATF building is now occupied by Actavis, which manufactures and packages generic pharmaceuticals.



Jerry O'Mahony Co. Manufacturer of Diners on West Grand St.

The Jerry O'Mahony Co. manufactured diners from 1917 to 1956 at this plant at 977 West Grand St. The firm was the largest diner manufacturer in the country. The site is occupied today by the Home Depot store.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Meccano Co. Toy Factory on Elizabeth Ave.

The Bonner & Barnewall Co. made leather belting in this building at 1004 Elizabeth Ave. in the early 1900s. The heavy duty belts were used for power transmission equipment in factories. In 1915 the company had 48 employees.

By 1922 the building was being used by the Meccano Co., maker of toy construction sets (bottom photo). Meccano moved to a building at 906 Westfield Ave. A.C. Gilbert had acquired the company and moved the operation to New Haven, CT, perhaps about 1930. The Elizabeth Ave. building was later used as a Robert Hall clothing store and by a company that made aluminum windows and storm doors. It was demolished some years ago for the widening of the Rt. 1/9 viaduct.

Another toy manufacturer was the Kiddies Metal Toys Co., incorporated about 1914. It was located at 309 Pine St. in Elizabethport, using a former Riker Electric Vehicle Co. building. The 1920 toy line included a wide range of "Jack and Jill Sandhill Toys", along with sand pails, toy shovels, tea sets and doll house furniture sets. The president was Louis Portolano, a tool and die maker. Annual sales were close to \$1,000,000 in the early 1920s. In 1926 the company moved to Plainfield but went out of business during the Depression.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Site of Fulton Rubber Type Co. on Fulton St.

The Fulton Rubber Type Co. was established in 1905 in this 4-story building at 128-142 Fulton St. The building formerly housed the S. and W. H. Rosenstein Shirt Manufacturing Co. and the M. E. Castles Shirt Manufacturing Company.

Fulton Rubber made rubber type for markers and signs, ink pads and even toy printing sets for kids. A fire in 1931 damaged the business. The building survived to the 1970s as the Fulton Printing Co. The site was converted some years ago into the Kopnicki Playfield.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Phelps Dodge Copper Products Co. on the Arthur Kill 1991

One of the biggest employers was the Phelps Dodge Copper Products Co. on the Arthur Kill near the Goethals Bridge. It seems everyone in Elizabeth had a friend or relative that worked there, making copper wire, rods and tubing. The plant was a huge military supplier and employed 2700 in World War II. Labor relations were rocky with many strikes in the long history of the plant. A strike in 1946 lasted eight months with one striker shot to death. The plant is still operating today as a division of Freeport-McMoRan.

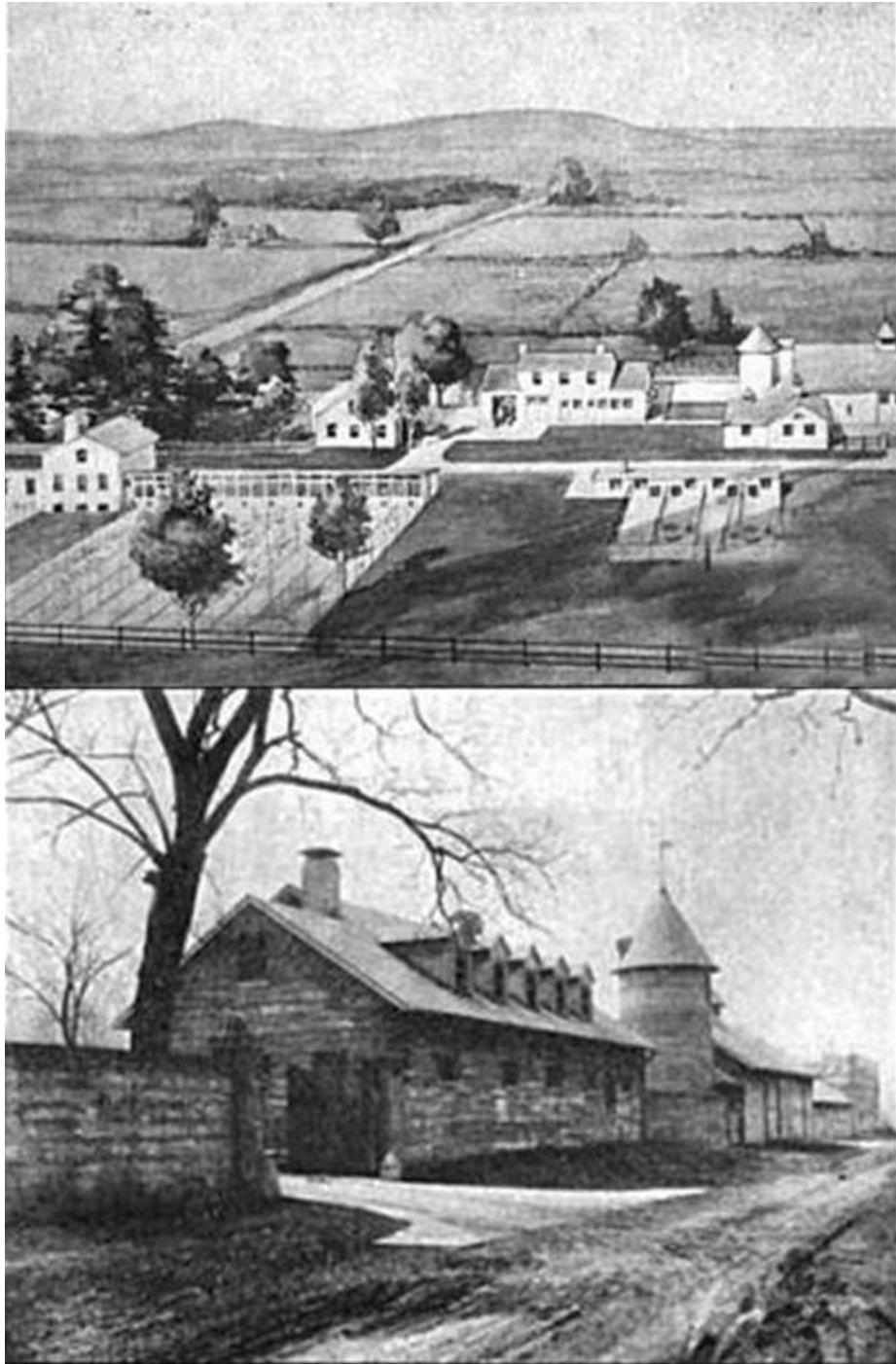


Goethals Bridge View Toward Elizabeth

A marvel of engineering, the Goethals Bridge has framed the waterfront skyline of Elizabeth since it opened in 1928. It was named after Major General George. W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal. I used the bridge daily to commute to my job at a chemical plant in Bayonne. A project is underway to replace the bridge with a new one to match today's traffic demand.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

2. Business, Commerce and Government



Kean Dairy Farm on Morris Ave.

A few of the dairy farms in Elizabeth survived into the 20th century. The top image represents the dairy farm of Hamilton F. Kean, located at the Kean Estate off Morris Ave. The bottom photo, taken in 1920, is a view of the garage, living quarters and dairy. Hamilton Fish Kean (1862-1941) was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1928, serving

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

one six-year term. After his political career he worked in banking. The Kean Estate became the site of the Newark State College in 1958, now known as Kean University.

The Magie family were early settlers in Elmora; an old map shows property along Elmora Ave. labeled as "Magie Town". John Ogden Magie was prosperous, owning several retail stores on Broad St. in the 1860s. He also raised thoroughbred Ayrshire dairy cattle, originally from Scotland, on his farm. He exhibited his prize cattle at the New York Dairy and Cattle Show in Madison Square Garden in 1887. Elizabeth area farmers began selling milk in 1840 with most of the supply going to New York City. When the New York market became unprofitable, Magie retailed his bottled milk locally from wagons at \$.07 per quart equivalent to \$1.81 today. He and his sons farmed 200 acres and had 50 cows. The farm was sold a few years later to Elmora real estate developers and hundreds of new homes were built.

The last dairy in Elizabeth was Caravano's, located on Spencer St., which operated until 1985. It was owned by Emanuel C. Caravano who held the last livestock license issued by the city. Mr. Caravano was then employed by the city as supervisor of weights and measures until early 2011 when he retired. He died July 24, 2011.



Ehrhardt Milk Delivery Wagon 1909

George F. Ehrhardt was a milk dealer in the early 1900s, living at 522 Adams Ave. This fancy delivery wagon was built for him in 1909 by the Fischer & Dackerman Co., which had a factory at 1153 Chestnut St. Ehrhardt was born in Germany in 1860 and died in Elizabeth about 1940.

The 1919 City Directory listed 31 milk dealers who were known as milkmen. Gus Andrade delivered Alderney brand milk to the front porch of our home on South St. in the 1950s. The milk came in quart glass bottles with the cream floating to the top. The top of the bottle was sealed with a cardboard lid. In the summer, Gus would place chunks of ice in the milk box to avoid spoiling. Home delivery of milk today is rare.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



CORY BUILDING, 105-111 BROAD STREET,
J. Harvey Cory, Owner.



Cory Building on Broad St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The 4-story Cory Building, located at 105-111 Broad St., possibly dating to the 1860s, was owned by prominent Elizabeth businessman James Harvey Cory. He was born 1826 in Springfield. He married Sarah Ann Davis in 1848 in Westfield. They were members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth.

Cory was a manager of the Dime Savings Institution of Elizabeth. In 1890 he joined Mayor Rankin and other businessmen to urge the Pennsylvania and Jersey Central Railroads to elevate the tracks across Broad St. Over 400 trains crossed the busy street daily, giving pedestrians and carriages only a few minutes each hour to cross. The Arch was subsequently built, eliminating fatal accidents and allowing Elizabeth to grow.

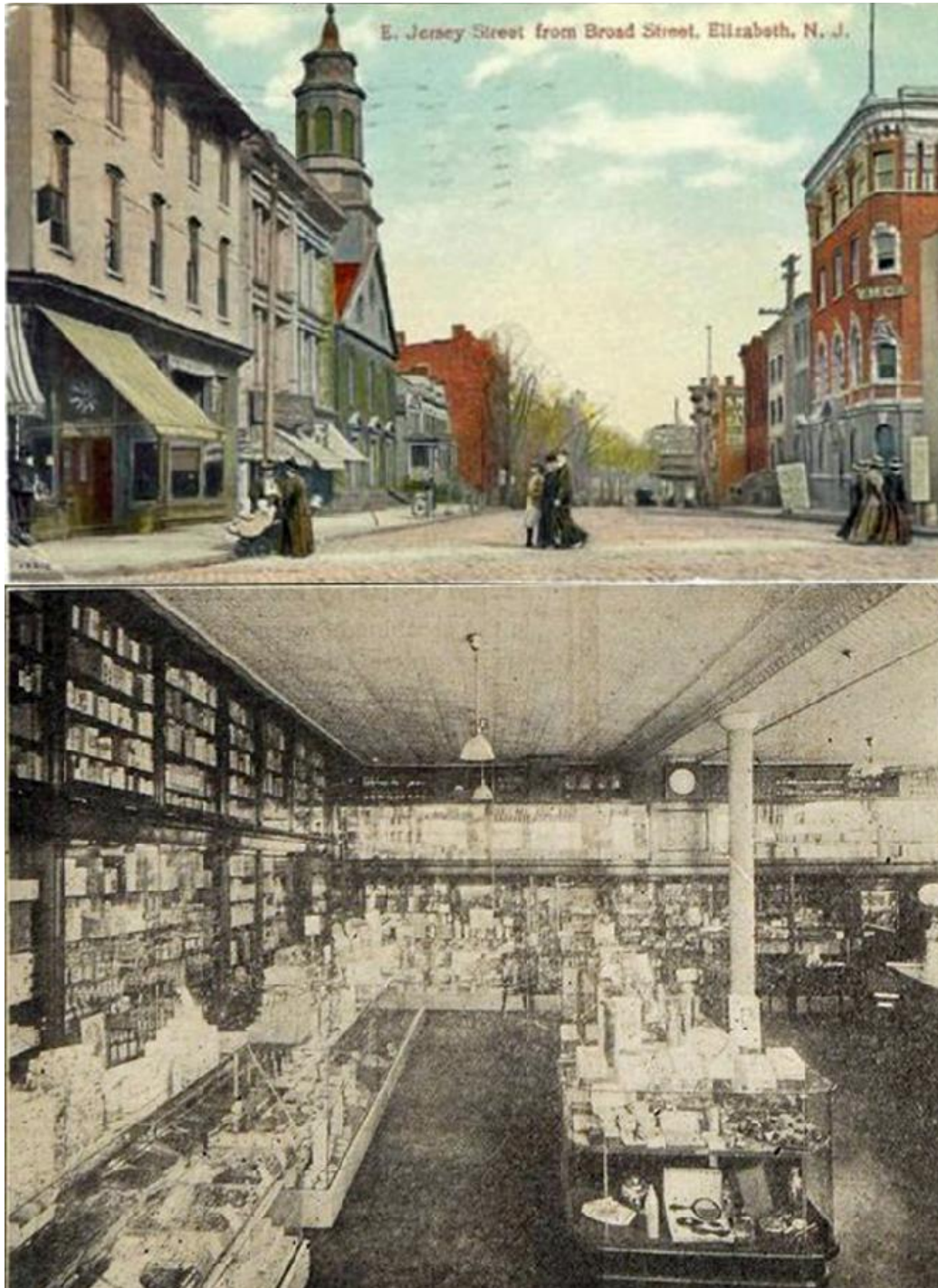
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Broad St. at East Jersey St.

The top photo dates to the 1870s and is a view of the corner of Broad and East Jersey Streets. It looks like a procession or a parade is taking place. The Cory Building is on the left. The distinctive building on the corner has been replaced or remodeled. Top photo courtesy of fxk19 All About Paper, an eBay store.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



The Graham & McCloskey drugstore was located in the early 1900s at 101 Broad St., the building on the left in this old postcard view of East Jersey St. The Second Presbyterian Church is on the left and the original YMCA is on the right. The bottom photo is an interior view of the drugstore, which was destroyed by fire in 1921. A interesting history of Elizabeth drugstores, several of which were on Broad St., was published in the January 1907 Druggists Circular:

"In 1840 Asbury W. Miller opened a store in Library Hall Building, Broad street. In 1857 it was sold to Hough & Miller. The firm dissolved in 1859, Dr. Thomas F. Hough opening a new store at 121 First street, in what was then

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

known as Elizabethport. The old store was continued by Miller & Greer until 1870, when it was sold to Wm. Oliver, who in turn, in 1871, sold to Woodruff & Wilson. It was sold again in 1873 to E- G- Putnam, who in 1889 sold to Wm. Whelan. In 1894 it passed to D. L. Hawkins, and in less than a year was closed to make room for the Lyceum Theatre.

In 1871 Wm. Oliver and Jonathan B. Drake opened a new store at 107 Broad street, moving later to 132 Broad, where the business is still conducted under the name of The Oliver & Drake Co., Mr. Oliver being still the active head. Mr. Drake died in 1904.

In 1855 Richard Frohwein opened a store on Fulton street near First, moving in 1857 to First near Marshall. In 1861 he purchased the store and building of Dr. Thomas F. Hough, 121 First street, where he still continues the business. He has been a proprietor for fifty-two years and is still the active head of the business. He is assisted by two sons, Walter and Richard, Jr. Dr. Hough gave up pharmacy and devoted his whole time to the practice of medicine, dying in 1896. Dr. W. A. M. Mack, his partner and son-in-law, also had a large practice. Dr. Hough was twice elected mayor of the city and a life size statute stands as a monument to his worth within sight of the offices of these men. Dr. Mack died in 1901.

In 1853 S. W. Whitehead and Robert B. Hooker opened a store at 117 Broad street, which in 1867 they moved to Broad and East Jersey streets. In 1885 the firm dissolved, G. B. Hooker taking the interest of S. W. Whitehead. The business was continued by R. B. Hooker & Son until 1901, when both partners dying, one soon after the other, Mrs. Geo. B. Hooker became the owner. She studied pharmacy and was registered in 1904, but poor health finally forced her to sell out to McCloskey & Graham, the present proprietors. S. W. Whitehead opened a store a little further up Broad, where the Arcanum Building stands. He continued business there and subsequently on East Grand street, until the time of his death in 1899.

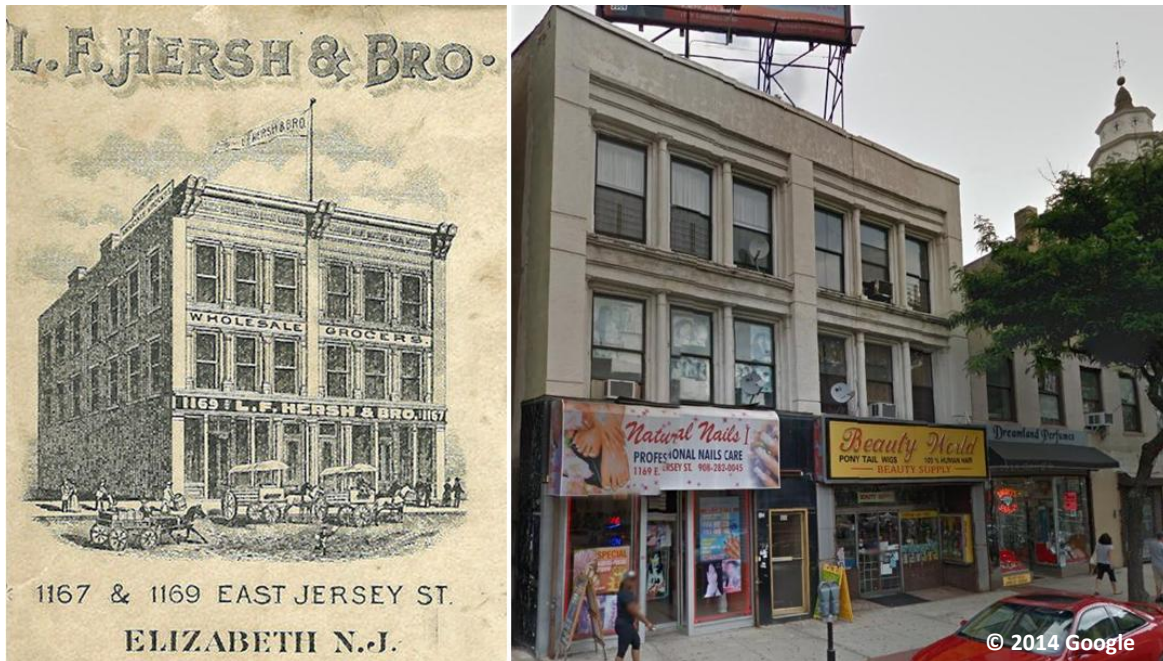
In 1868 Charles Bucholz, of New York city, with A. K. Rich, opened a store at 46 First street. Mr. Bucholz sold his interest in a few months and opened a store at the "crossroads" on Elizabeth avenue. The original store was sold later to Geo. F. Simpson, who in turn sold to Dayton Decker, who conducted it from 1870 to 1878. In the latter year he sold to Geo. A. Ford, who conducted it until January, 1904, when he sold to Benjamin F. Davis, the present proprietor. Mr. Bucholz was in business at the "crossroads" store until 1887, when he sold to G. H. Homing, who still conducts the store.

In 1868 a store was opened at 13 Broad street by Wm. Ball; in the early seventies it was sold to D. W. Brant & Co. The ownership changed to E. H. Sherwood, Cramer & Co., E. H. Sherwood again, and in 1879 it was purchased by H. J. Schmidt, who in 1880 moved it to 7 Broad street, where he still does business.

In 1868 Chas. Wheldon & Co., of Pittsfield, Mass., opened a branch store at 166 Broad street. Later it was moved to 92 Broad and afterward sold to P. Barnaby. He sold to D. W. Brant after the latter had retired from 13 Broad. Mr. Brant in 1895 sold to Parsons & Burchill. Mr. Parsons now runs the store and Mr. Burchill has a store at Bayonne.

In 1869 George Hires had a store at 63 Elizabeth avenue: Wenzel Turba one at 214 Elizabeth avenue; John Howland one at Union Square. All these were closed long since."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Hersh Grocery Business on East Jersey St.

Louis F. Hersh, born in Austria in 1857, was one of the most successful entrepreneurs in Elizabeth. He was in the wholesale grocery business with his brother Herman, operating in the early 1900s in this 3-story building at 1167 East Jersey St., near Broad St. Hersh also owned a Ford dealership on Westfield Ave. and was president of the Union County Trust Co. He built the Art Deco inspired 14-story Hersh Tower office building on Broad St. in 1931.

Hersh resided for many years at 117 West Jersey St. with his wife Bertha, son Samuel and daughter Dorothy. Samuel served in World War I. The family had live in servants who came from Europe.

Hersh was active in civic and charitable affairs in the city. He died in 1933 at age of 76. At the time he was living at 1374 North Ave. He left bequests to the Elizabeth General Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Alexian Bros. Hospital, Elizabeth Orphan Asylum (Janet Memorial Home), Congregation B'nai Israel, and employees of his company.

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BROAD STREET, NORTH FROM JERSEY—ELIZABETH, N. J.

Elizabeth Novelty Co.

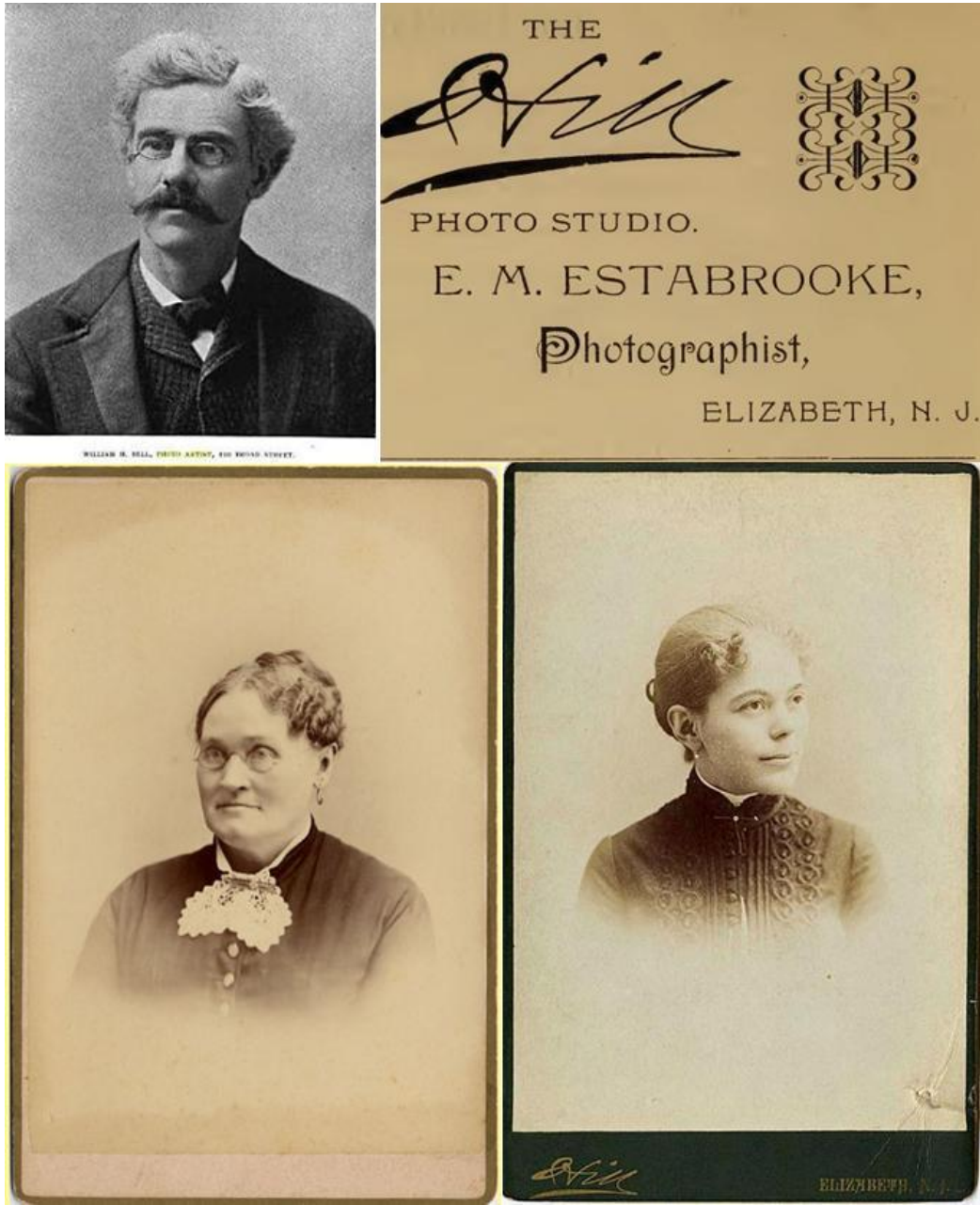


Broad St. at West Jersey St.

The top photo is a 1906 postcard view of the corner of Broad and West Jersey Streets looking north. By this time horse drawn trolleys had been replaced with electrical powered trolleys. The corner store on the left was the Mackey Bros. drugstore. Next door was a wooden building housing a store that sold boots and shoes. The photography studio of Moses Harriman was on the upper level in the late 1800s. The 4-story brick building further north was Masonic Hall. These buildings disappeared over time as seen in the 1962 postcard view.

The Goerke's department store was built in 1912. On the right, the 14-story Art Deco Hersh Tower, at the corner of East Grand St., was erected in 1931 by investor and entrepreneur Louis Hersh. It is the tallest commercial building in the city and an iconic landmark.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Photographer William H. Hill and Portraits

William H. Hill operated a photography studio at 110 Broad St. in the late 19th century. His 8 by 10 inch interior photographs were exhibited at the 1884 Chicago Print Fair. Hill photographed most of the homes and buildings featured in the book *Elizabeth, New Jersey Illustrated* published in 1889. Photographer E. M. Estabrooke joined the studio by 1893.

Natural light was needed for the long exposure times, so the subjects found it easier to maintain a serious pose rather than smile.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Masonic Hall on Broad St. 1907

Masonic Hall was located for many years in this building at 114 Broad St. near the corner of West Jersey St. The history of the Masons in Elizabeth dates back to 1762 when Temple Lodge No. 1 was established. Additional Lodges were formed over the years. In 1908 one of the Elizabeth Lodges admitted African-Americans to their membership, the first Lodge in the U.S. to do so.

The building seen in this 1907 photo was later replaced with a commercial building when a new Masonic Temple was built on North Broad St.



West Grand St. View Toward Broad St.

This early 1900s postcard is a view from West Grand St. of the Isham Building on the left next to the original Hersh Building. The Isham Building at 211 Broad St. was the office of the Security Land and Improvement Company, established in the 1880s by Henry Heyward Isham. He was president of the Marietta, Columbus and Cleveland Railroad. Isham was active in promoting Elizabeth to industrial investors.

The 8-story Hersh Building was built about 1907 by banker Louis Hersh. The architect was Nathan Meyers of Newark. The building cost about \$45,000, equivalent to \$1.1 million today. Today's view shows the first Hersh Building gone, but the Isham Building is still being used. The Union County Trust Co. building, now called the Garden State Community Bank, is on the right.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The 3-story building on the left of today's view was called Shreve's Hotel in 1877. A description from the 1887 book *Quarter-Century's Progress of New Jersey's Leading Manufacturing Centres* is reproduced below:

"Shreve's Hotel, No. 14 West Grand Street, Mrs. Susan. Shreve, Proprietress. —A comfortable, well-managed hotel in this section of the city, and one offering good entertainment at reasonable charges, is the Shreve's Hotel. The house is conveniently located opposite the depot, and meets with a liberal patronage from the traveling public. The building is substantially built of brick, three stories high, and 80x100 feet in dimensions. It contains office, reading and writing rooms, dining-room, kitchen, washrooms, and some twenty-five comfortable and carefully arranged sleeping apartments, the whole affording accommodation for about fifty guests. The house is cleanly and neatly kept, and the tables are furnished with good, wholesome viands, nicely served up. Transient guests find here all the comforts of home at the reasonable charge of one dollar and fifty cents per day, and special terms are offered to theatrical companies. The hotel has been conducted by Mrs. Shreve upward of ten years, and has been in existence some thirty years. The proprietress, Mrs. Shreve, is an excellent manageress, and is very popular with her guests."

GRAND UNION RESTAURANT AND CAFE
One block from Lincoln Highway 31-33-35 WEST GRAND STREET Corner Union Street



Elizabeth's Best
Regular Dinner 12 to
8 p. m.
A la Carte all Day
Closed Sundays
Telephone Connection
ELIZABETH : N. J.



West Grand and Union Streets

The Grand Union Restaurant and Café was located on the corner of West Grand and Union Streets according to this 1916 ad. The Penn Brook Inn later occupied the building and featured jazz performances. I believe Count Basie and his band played there in the early 1960s. The Penn Brook name came from the location between the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Elizabeth River. Today's view shows a commercial building at the site.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Mulford Coal Co. on West Grand St. 2010 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The W.W. Mulford Coal and Wood Co. at 55 West Grand St. dates to 1889 or earlier. The office was built with distinctive architecture. The 3-story building next door on the right at no. 53 was built between 1903 and 1918 when it was the Perfenol Products Co., manufacturer of synthetic perfumes. By 1919 it was the Kalish garment factory. In 1922 this building was occupied by Banner Bros., a fancy leather goods factory.



East Grand St. from Broad St.

This view of East Grand St. from Broad St. dates to the early 1900s, well before the Hersh Tower was built on the right corner. I remember Brokaw's fish market on the left side in the 1950s. There were fishing nets and crab or lobster traps in the window and several tables for serving lunch. The 1921 City Directory lists J. Walter Brokaw

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

having a fish market at 1208 East Grand and another store nearby at 115 Broad St. which may have been a produce store. Brokaw lived at 665 Magie Road.

Today a new central police station occupies much of the left side of this block.



Hersh Tower at Broad and East Grand Streets

The corner store in the Hersh Tower, at Broad and East Grand Streets, is now occupied by a 7-11 convenience store, but it was the Vogel Music Center for more than 50 years. In 1950 Jay and Sy Vogel opened a small store in Rahway selling greeting cards, books, art supplies, sheet music, vinyl LPs, and 45 singles. The music part of the business took off and by 1958 there were five music stores throughout central New Jersey. The original Elizabeth store was located on a side street and moved to this busier location in 1961.

After a fire destroyed the New Brunswick store in 1964, the Vogels sold the remaining stores to concentrate on the Elizabeth location. Jan Le Grande, daughter of Sy and Irene Vogel, and her husband Randy joined the business in 1990. Over the years the store survived the transition to eight track tapes, cassettes, and CDs, carrying a broad line of music for all tastes. The store was a haven for musicians like Jon Bovi, Kool and the Gang, Jimmy Dean, Leslie Uggams and Eddy Arnold who stopped in to buy music and chat with the Vogels.

The Vogel Music Center outlasted the mall chain music stores but eventually closed due to the sale of music via the Internet.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Adam Hat store on Broad St. 2011 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The faded sign, "Adam The First Name in Hats", is all that remains of the Adam hat store at 201 Broad St., at the corner of East Grand St. My father bought a fedora hat there in the early 1950s, wearing it on Sundays and even on visits to Warinanco Park. I recall Jennie Klein's hat store on Elizabeth Ave. near Union Square that my mother and sister patronized. In those days women wore hats and gloves to church.

Men's fashion changed to a less formal look by the end of the 1950s and hat sales declined. John F. Kennedy was the last president to wear a top hat in the inaugural parade in 1961.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

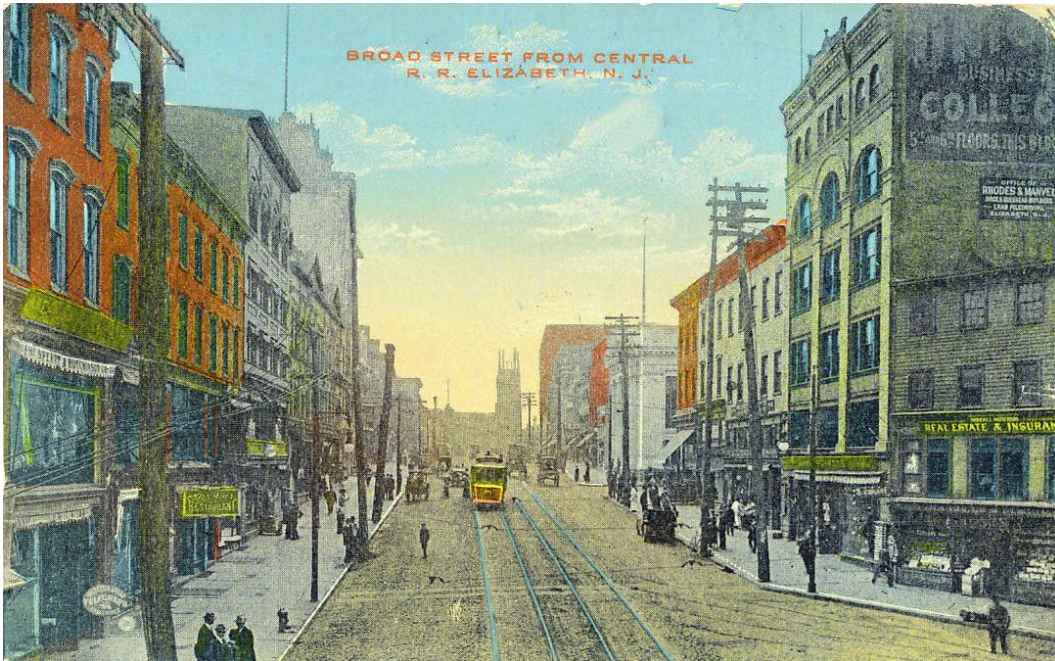


Burkely Hotel 1903

The 5-story Burkely Hotel was located at 221 Broad St. near the Arch. It was one of the better hotels in the city. The proximity to the railroad stations made it a good choice for out of town visitors. Rooms in 1905 cost \$2.50, equivalent to \$60 today. It later became the Hotel Whittman. Owner August Whittman was arrested in 1920 during a Prohibition raid at several establishments in Elizabeth. The hotel's bar and restaurant were padlocked in 1931, presumably for Prohibition violations.

The building became the Albert Lifson & Son Furniture store which closed around 1980. It remains in use today with a clothing store on the ground floor. The upper floors have been entirely covered with a concrete facade.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

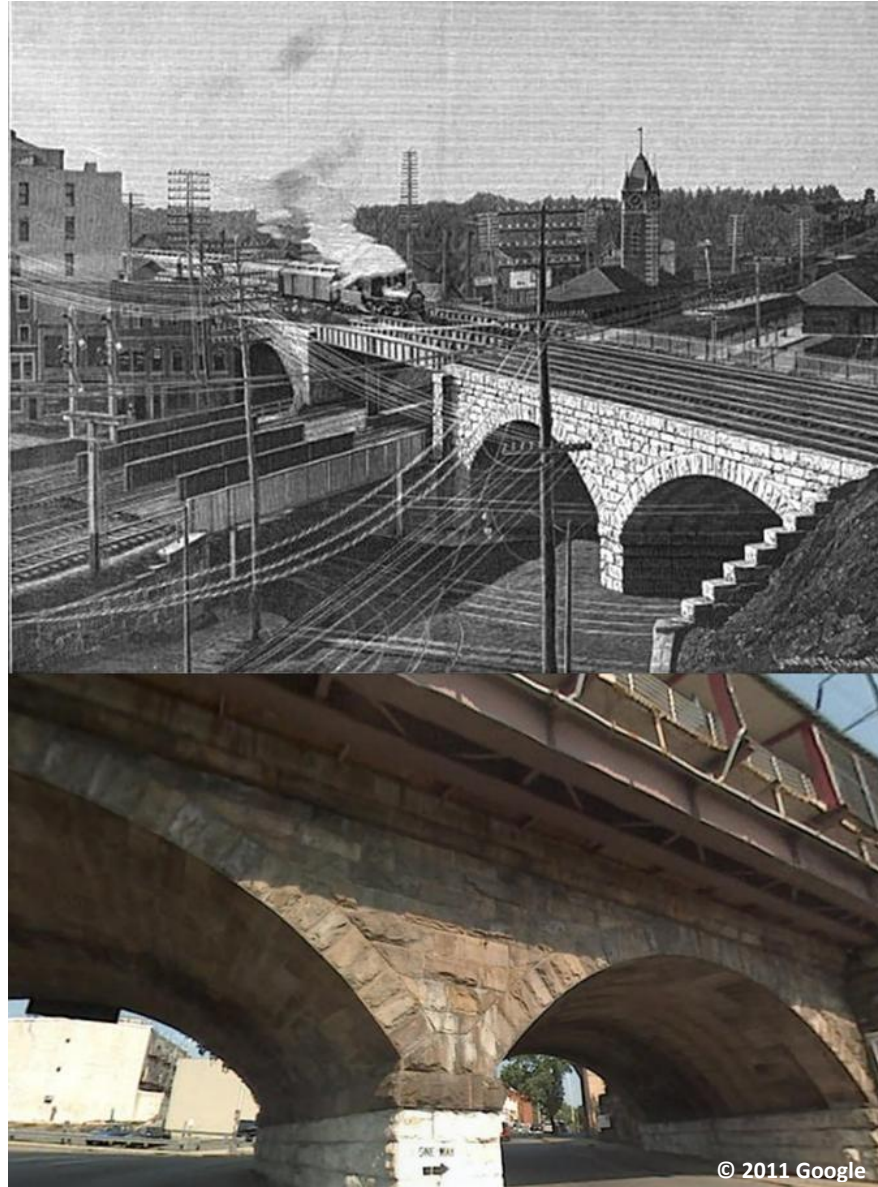


Broad St. View South from Arch

This 1915 postcard shows Broad St. looking south toward St. John's Church. The 6-story Dix Building on the right was located at 208-210 Broad St. across from the Burkely Hotel. In 1889 the Elizabeth Clothiers store, owned by William B. Daland, was located on the ground floor. Professional offices were on the upper floors. The building also housed the Union Business College. Perhaps it was named after J. Augustus Dix, who worked in the publishing and insurance businesses, served as Superintendent of Schools in the late 1800s, and was active in civic affairs. The Dix Building was later replaced by a three-story building.

Arnold Samuelsen added "The first reference to "Dix Building" in a city directory is 1895. According to "History of Union County" of 1923, Leo H. Schwed (1879-1959) relocated his clothing store, Schwed and Brother, to the site in 1904 and a few years later purchased the building and renamed it the Schwed Building. He had also operated clothing stores in Plainfield and Somerville. He lived at 1269 Clinton Place and was a founder of the Elizabeth YM-YWHA, according to his obituary in the N.Y. Times. He was living in East Orange at the time of his death in 1959."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

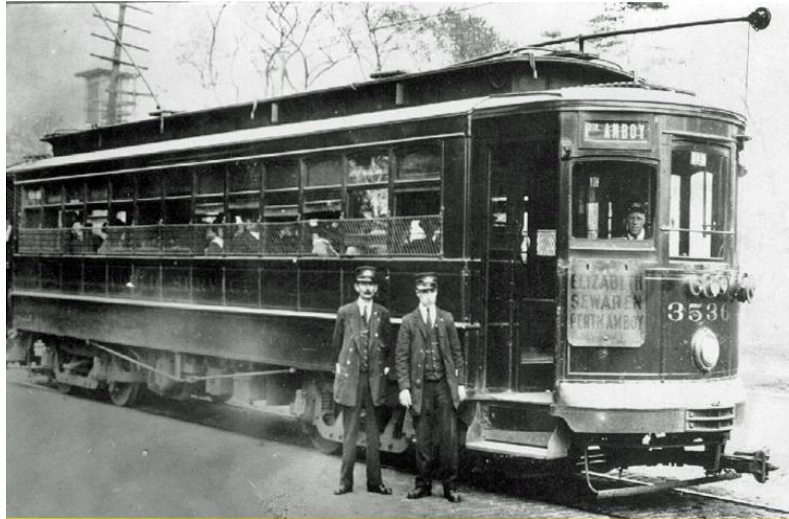


The Arch at Broad St.

By 1890 hundreds of trains were passing through Broad St. at street level daily, giving pedestrians and horse drawn vehicles little time cross the tracks. The crossing in the heart of the city was both a peril to citizens and an impediment to future economic development. The city eventually persuaded the Pennsylvania and Jersey Central Railroads to elevate the tracks. The Pennsylvania Railroad first elevated its tracks throughout the city, eliminating grade crossings. Broad St. was excavated so the Pennsylvania Railroad could pass over the Central Railroad. The Pennsylvania Railroad runs oblique to the streets, so skew stone arches had to be built, considered an engineering feat when the project was near completion in 1895 (top photo).

The Pennsylvania Railroad planned a major improvement in 1915 of the tracks and passenger station in Elizabeth. The dangerous curve through the central section of the city would be straightened, two new tracks added, and a new main station erected on East Broad St. The railroad acquired title to homes and buildings in the new right of way and many were moved or razed, including a large building on East Broad torn down for the proposed new station. The plan was never implemented, perhaps due to high cost or right of way issues.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Fast Line Car Traveled on Broad St.

This Public Service intercity car was used on the "Fast Line" connecting Newark to Trenton via the Broad St. tracks in Elizabeth. Note the sign on the front of the car "Elizabeth Sewaren Perth Amboy". The service began in the World War I era. The nine lines of the Public Service Railway system in New Jersey carried 40.6 million passengers in 1918.



Passenger Bus 1906

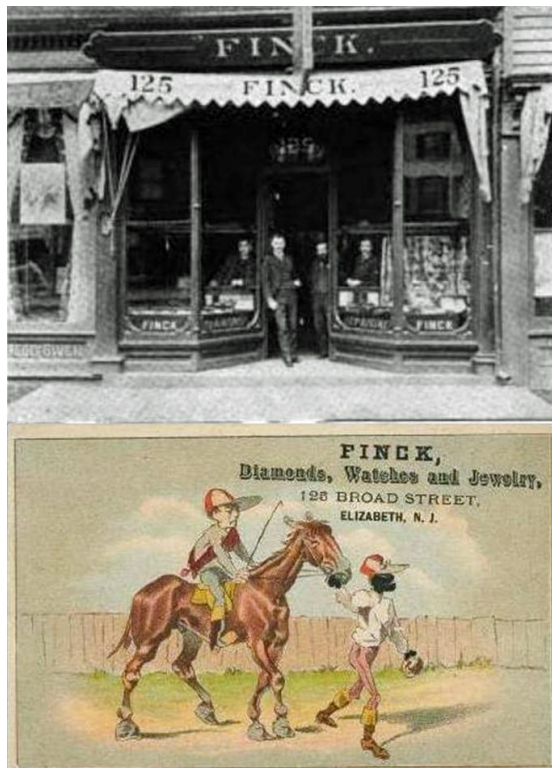
This 25 passenger bus was built for the East Jersey Motor & Transportation Co. of Elizabeth to provide transportation between Elizabeth, Rahway and Port Reading. Service to the chemical plants in Tremley was also planned. The bus, which had a 35 horsepower engine and solid rubber tires, took twenty minutes to Rahway and one hour to Port Reading on macadam roads. It was reported that ten more passengers could be squeezed in by standing. The early buses were not reliable so commuters continued to use train and trolley service. Buses started to replace trolleys in the 1920s and were electrified by overhead power lines. Gasoline powered buses began service in the 1940s. The buses were operated by Public Service.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



F. W. Woolworth Store on Broad St.

The Woolworth five and ten cent store was a landmark on Broad St. for many years. It was a popular place to buy household items or school supplies and then eat at the lunch counter. The building to the left of Woolworths was the Elizabethtown Gas Light Co. which displayed gas light fixtures and stoves. The Woolworth store later moved closer to Goerke's on the left of the postcard. Woolworth went out of business nationwide in 1997.



Finck Jewelry Store on Broad St. 1889

The top photo, dated 1889, shows the jewelry store of William C. Finck, located at 125 Broad St. His advertising card would be politically incorrect today. Finck retired from the retail business in 1893 and went into the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

manufacture of silver and gold souvenir spoons and badges. He was awarded several patents on jewelry pins and badges in the 1890s. In 1910 Finck patented an alloy as a substitute for platinum at only 3 percent of the cost.

Advertising card courtesy of Wishes to Fortunes, an eBay store.



Left: Goerke Ad 1937. Right: Goerke's Department Store on Broad St. 1969.

In the early 1900s Rudolph Goerke owned a department store in Newark but saw an opportunity to expand in Elizabeth which had only small dry-goods stores. Goerke and partner E. A. Kirch erected a 6-story building in 1912 at the corner of Broad and West Jersey Streets that became the city's first real department store. Associated with the business were brothers Oscar and Edmund Goerke. Edmund Goerke joined the Goerke-Kirch Co. as a delivery clerk in 1913 and soon became secretary and general manager. He served as an Elizabeth city councilman.

In the 1920s the Goerke family expanded, buying Lit Bros. in Philadelphia. The Depression forced the closure of the Philadelphia and Newark stores, but the Elizabeth store survived and was known as the R.J. Goerke Co. The 1937 ad on the left features a fur coat for \$59.75, equivalent to \$900 today. Later the firm bought the Rosenbaum Bros. store in Plainfield.

I remember visiting Santa Claus at Goerke's during the Christmas season in the late 1940s. The store was beautifully decorated with an automated toy display in the window.

In 1962 Goerke's became part of Steinbach's, owned by the Genung retail store operation, but the store sign was not changed to Steinbach's until the early 1970s. Suburban malls like Menlo Park led to the decline of the Broad St. shopping district. Today the store is called Shopper's World.

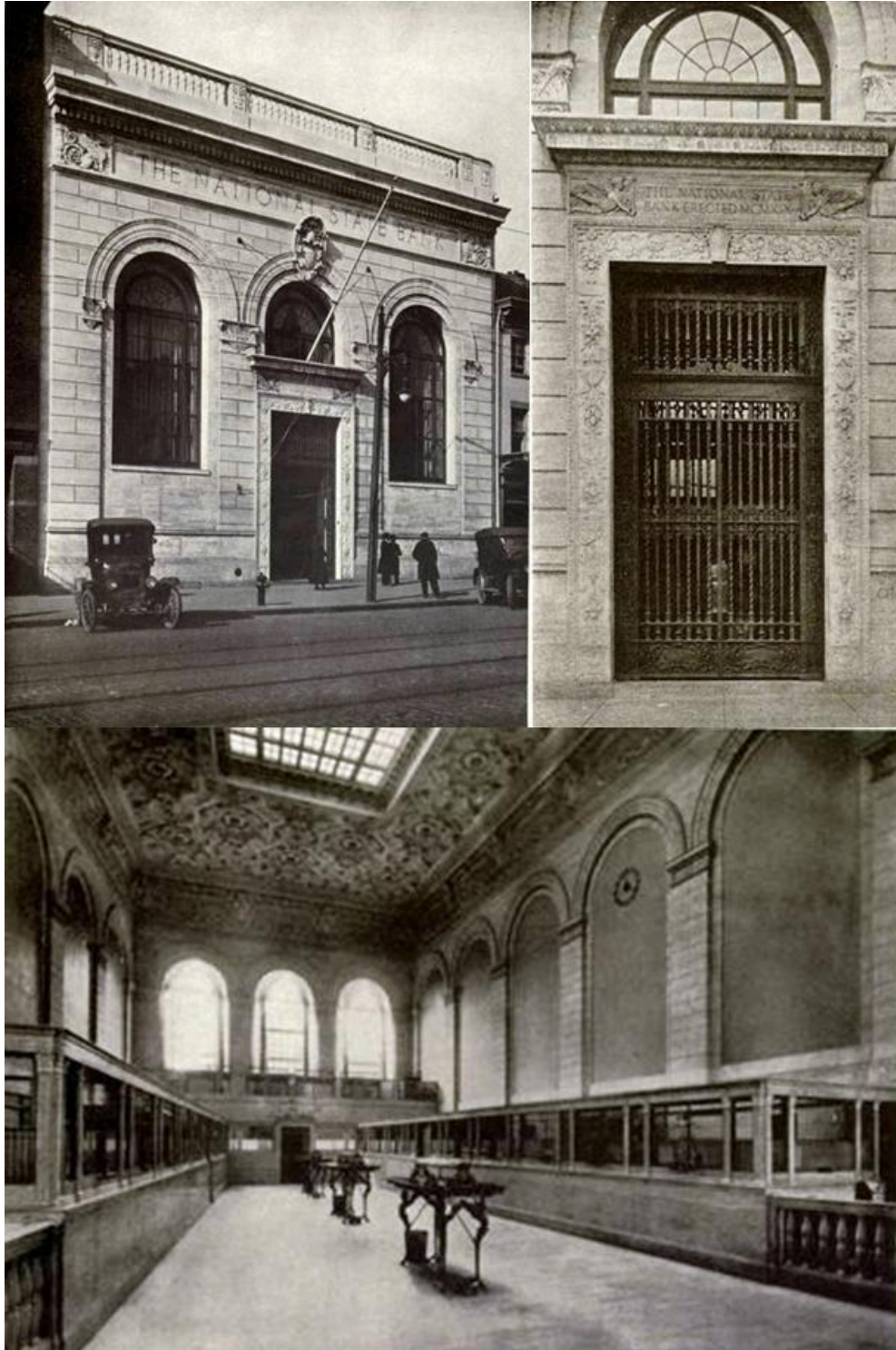
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Levy Bros. Department Store on Broad St.

In the early 1900s Emanuel and Bernard Levy operated a dry goods and shoe store at the corner of Second St. and Magnolia Ave. in Elizabethport. When Broad St. became the premier shopping district in the city, the Levy brothers built a multi-story department store there in 1923. The top postcard shows the new Levy Bros. store with convenient street parking. The building to the left of Levy's was the Dey House which had some historical significance but was demolished after 1973. The next building is the National State Bank; further to the left is the First Presbyterian Church. To the right of the Levy building was the retail paint store J. J. Hockenjos, a company that manufactured paint in Newark. The shift of population to the suburbs and the emergence of shopping malls diminished the Broad St. shopping district. Today there are retail stores in the former Levy Bros. building, but the upper floors appear to be empty. The original Levy store site in the Port is now occupied by an apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



National State Bank on Broad St. 1919

New banks built today are usually simple one story brick buildings with a drive-up window and an ATM machine. But banks built in the late 19th and early 20th century were imposing structures designed to assure customers that their deposits were safe. The finest construction materials were used with elaborate architectural details to convey the wealth of the banking firm.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The National State Bank erected such a building in 1919 on Broad Street in the center of the business district. Julian H. Kean, scion of the wealthy Kean family of Elizabeth, was president at the time and engaged the architectural firm of Dennison & Hiron of New York. Missouri stone was used on the exterior. The front entrance was carved from Napoleon gray marble. The large front and rear windows and skylight provided natural lighting for the imposing main banking room. The walls were decorated with arches and pilasters in travertine stone. The ornamental ceiling was inspired by the Palazzo Ducale of Venice. The vault has a sixteen inch thick door and space for 3,000 safe deposit boxes.

The bank is currently operated by Wells Fargo.



Removal of Trolley Tracks on Broad St. 1942

Elizabeth had comprehensive trolley service in the early 1900s. Streets serviced included Bayway Ave., South Broad, Broad, North Broad, Morris Ave., Orchard, Westfield Ave, West Jersey, East Broad, Jefferson Ave., East Grand, East Jersey, Elizabeth Ave., Third, Second (partial), and First. Some of these trolleys went on to surrounding towns.

Electrified bus trolleys ran on the tracks in the 1930s and were replaced by motor buses in the 1940s. The steel tracks were dug up and used for World War II production.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Stratemeyer Tobacco Shop on Broad St. ca. 1880. Today's Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Maurice Stratemeyer's tobacco shop was located in the 1880s at 31 Broad St. at the corner of Washington St. (now called Dickinson St.) He also dealt in musical instruments and sporting goods. His half-brother was noted writer Edward Stratemeyer. Edward began his writing career while working in the shop. He tore off a sheet of brown wrapping paper and began to write the serial "Victor Horton's Idea", which was published by a Philadelphia weekly for boys. He went on to create the well-known fictional series for juveniles including The Rover Boys, The Bobbsey Twins, Tom Swift, The Hardy Boys, and the Nancy Drew series. More than 500 million copies of his books were sold worldwide. Edward Stratemeyer died in 1930 and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside.

All of the 19th century wood frame buildings along Broad St. eventually disappeared. The tobacco shop was replaced years ago with a three-story brick commercial building.



American Hotel at Broad St. and Elizabeth Ave. 1867

This photo was taken on January 10, 1867 after fire destroyed the American Hotel at the northeast corner of Broad St. and Elizabeth Ave. The history of the hotel is discussed in the book by Warren Dix "Historic Elizabeth 1664-1932" as follows: "Site of old *Tavern*, on the corner of Broad Street, and burned in 1867. It was known as Union Hotel and American Hotel and kept for many years by Col. David Sanderson. It was the headquarters of the stage coach line between New York and Philadelphia. In the rear, on Broad Street were extensive livery stables, and here were kept the horses which drew the first horse cars operated in the town. They went down Water Street (now Elizabeth Avenue) to Jefferson Street. The horse cars continued thence to the Central Railroad of New Jersey and

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

along its lines to Elizabethtown, where passengers took the steamer for New York. Gen. Matthias Williamson owned the corner, and his brother William the next house east, inheriting the property from their father, William, in 1734."



This view of Broad St. north from Elizabeth Ave. dates to the late 1890s when gasoline powered trolleys had replaced horse drawn trolleys. The trolleys became electric powered when overhead power lines were installed about 1900. Note the awnings on the stores used for cooling and to prevent fading of window displays. The Lyceum theater is on the right and the venerable St. John's Church, which remains today, is in the background.

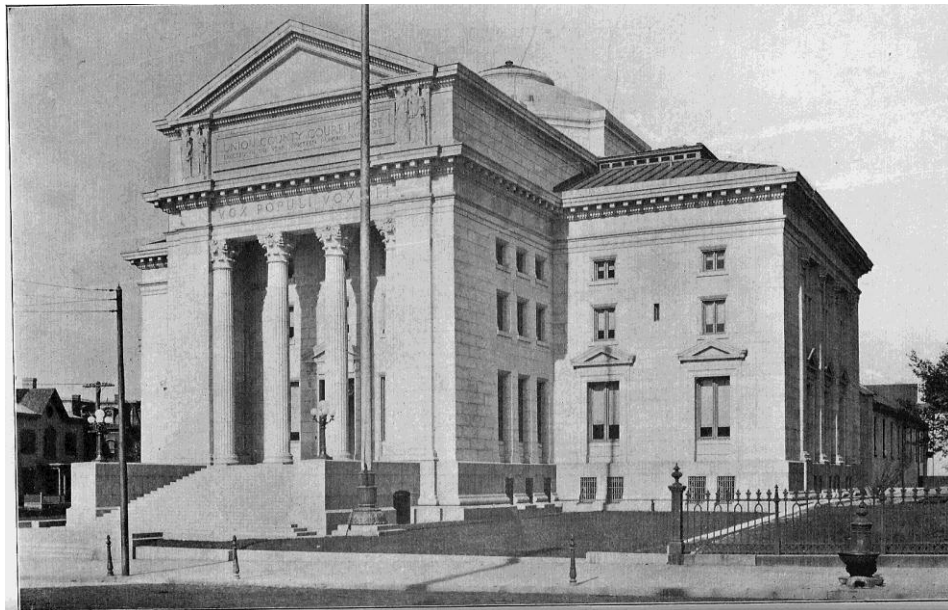


Broad St., Elizabeth, N. J. Showing Even Courses and Smooth Heads of Granite Blocks.

In 1915 Mayor Victor Mravlag approved the repaving of Broad St. with granite blocks grouted in place with cement. The original Belgian blocks were grouted with sand and developed ruts and potholes.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The cobblestone streets gave the city a certain old world charm. I remember the distinctive rumble that cars made driving over the bumpy surface. These streets were very slippery when wet and hazardous during ice or snow storms. The last cobblestone streets were paved over in the 1970s. One remains under the Arch.



Union County Courthouse

The top photo of the Union County Courthouse was taken shortly after it opened in 1905 at the corner of Broad St. and Rahway Ave. The three-story building, with facilities for all branches of county government, was designed by architects Ackerman and Ross. The Classical Revival structure has a three bay principal facade, portico and four Corinthian columns. The four statues on the pediment were sculpted by noted Beaux Art sculptor Philip Martiny

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

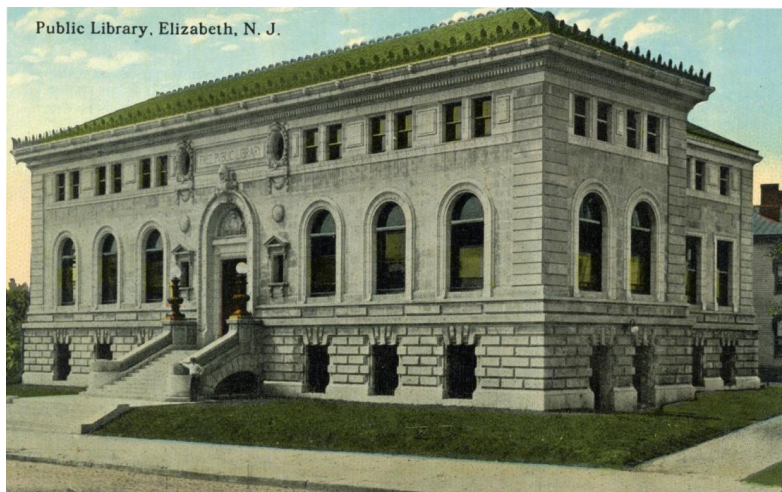
whose work adorns public buildings in New York and Washington, DC. Today's view shows the seven-floor Annex in the rear, including a County Jail, erected in 1925. The 17-floor tower was constructed in 1931. The Courthouse is one of Elizabeth's most recognized landmarks.



Union County Jail on South Union Ave.

This rare 1909 postcard is a view of the Union County Jail behind the Courthouse at the corner of Rahway Ave. and South Union Ave. There has been a jail on this site since 1811 when one was established in the basement of the court building to hold runaway slaves, beggars and the insane. At the time, Elizabethtown was part of Essex County and criminals were housed in Newark.

After Union County was formed in 1858, the jail was erected in 1862. The Warden's residence, with a front porch, is on the right. In the early 1900s about 50 inmates were held, including juveniles some of whom were under ten years of age. Between 1865 and 1898, four executions by hanging were conducted in the yard between the Courthouse and the jail. This jail was used until replaced by a new building adjacent to the Courthouse in 1925. The newest addition to the jail complex was opened in 1989 and houses about 1,000 inmates today.



Elizabeth Public Library on Broad St.

The Elizabeth Public Library on Broad St. at Rahway Ave. was erected in 1912. It was built during the "free library movement" with the impetus of Charles N. Fowler, U.S. Congressman from Union County. The funds were provided by millionaire philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The design, reminiscent of an Italian palazzo and the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Boston Public Library, was by Edward Lippincott Tilton, who had designed many other Carnegie libraries as well as the immigration station at Ellis Island.

In the 1950s I spent hours in the library exploring the book stacks and reading the latest issues of Popular Science, Popular Mechanics and National Geographic. When teachers assigned research projects, kids went to the library with stacks of index cards to take notes.

The exterior of the library was beautifully renovated in 2012 to restore the original appearance.

The first public library was in the historic Carteret Arms building shown below:



Carteret Arms on Broad St.

Carteret Arms was located at 16 South Broad St. The site was once occupied by a tavern of that name before 1728. This later became an inn popular with officers of the British garrison. In 1795 Robinson Thomas constructed the 2.5 story brick colonial style building there for his residence. The Elizabeth Orphan Asylum used the building 1859 to 1872.

The Elizabeth Public Library occupied it until 1912 when the new library opened across the street. The Elizabeth Historic and Civic Association purchased the building in 1913. It was later taken over by the Woman's Club and finally used as a warehouse by the Jersey Electric Company before demolition in 1941 to make way for a commercial building. The new owner offered the historic building to the City of Elizabeth but this was declined due to lack of an available site for relocation.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Original Armory on South Broad St. 1904

This 1904 photo shows the original Armory located on South Broad St. along the Elizabeth River. It was built in 1881 using the Norman style of architecture for the front of the building. The Armory was the home of the Veteran Zouaves, a regiment of Civil War veterans led by James Madison Drake, a Brigadier General in the New Jersey State Militia. He was publisher of several Elizabeth newspapers including the Elizabeth Daily leader 1887-1900 (see biography below).

A new Armory was built in 1912 on Magnolia Ave. for the New Jersey National Guard. The old Armory was demolished after 1923 to make way for a new fire station.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



James Madison Drake and Veteran Zouaves 1907

One of the most remarkable of Elizabeth's Civil War veterans was James Madison Drake. He was born in Somerset County in 1837 and at a young age entered his father's printing business in Elizabeth. In 1854 he began publishing the Mercer Standard in Trenton and later the Evening Express. He was elected alderman of Trenton when only 21 years old.

After Fort Sumpter fell, Drake enlisted in Company K, Ninth New Jersey Volunteers and was appointed sergeant. He became lieutenant in 1863. He was captured in the battle of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia in 1864. At the Macon and Savannah prisons he and his comrades tried to escape by digging tunnels but were thwarted. After a stay at the Charleston prison, where yellow fever raged, Drake and 600 other officers were marched to a train headed for Columbia. When the train crossed the Congaree River, he and three others jumped from the guarded boxcar. They

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

reached the Union lines at Knoxville after a grueling 49 day trek through enemy territory. He mustered out as a captain at Greensboro on April 13, 1865. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism while commanding a skirmish line on May 6, 1864 at Bermuda Hundred, Virginia. The State of New Jersey legislature honored him with the brevet rank of Brigadier General in the New Jersey State Militia.

After the war, Drake moved to Elizabeth and reentered the newspaper business. He was publisher of the Elizabeth Daily Monitor 1868-1881; the Elizabeth Sunday Leader 1882-1887; and the Elizabeth Daily Leader 1887-1900.

In 1867 Drake organized the Veteran Zouaves, a group of 75 Civil War veterans of Elizabeth including some men who served with him in the Ninth New Jersey Volunteers. The Zouaves were named after the light infantry regiments of the French Army that served in French North Africa beginning in 1831. The characteristic zouave uniform included a short open-fronted jacket, baggy trousers, sash and a fez. The National Guard unit became famous, performing in parades and patriotic events throughout the country, including the South. They had an armory building on South Broad Street.

The bottom photo of the Veteran Zouaves was taken October 7, 1907 in front of Drake's home at 116 Jefferson Avenue. Gen. Drake is on the left in the foreground, wearing a dark coat. This marked the beginning of a week's tour of Gettysburg and other battlefields.

Drake became involved in a dispute with the City over his criticism of a Councilman. This led to New Jersey disqualifying his unit, known as the Gatling Gun Regiment, as part of the state militia.

Drake wrote several books about his war experiences including "Fast and Loose in Dixie", "Adventurous Escape from Prison Life", "Across the Continent" and "The History of the Ninth New Jersey Veteran Volunteers". He died in 1913 and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Hillside. His home was demolished some years later and the site became a parking lot behind the Albender Building on East Jersey St.



Elizabeth Civil War Veterans Left to Right: Chaplain A. St. John Chambre, 8th NJ Volunteers; Maj. John Danforth, 37th NJ Volunteers; 1st Lt. Joseph Donovan, 2nd NJ Volunteers. Photo Taken at Price Studio on Broad St.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers on May 3, 1861, David Hatfield of Elizabeth organized a 100 man company. They departed for Trenton by train on May 16, joining the First, Second, Third, and Fourth New Jersey Volunteers. A description of the sendoff is in the book by Alan A. Siegel, *Beneath the Starry Flag: New Jersey's Civil War Experience*, 2001. David Hatfield, 31 years old and a private in the Mexican War, began to enroll the company the same day of Lincoln's appeal. The staging area is not described in this book, but the Hatfield (Hatfield) family had a residence and acreage at the foot of Pearl St. near Grove. St. After two weeks of assemblage, the company

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

of men marched to the station to board a train to Trenton. Maj. Hatfield died of wounds received in action at the Battle of Gaines Mill, Virginia.



Fire Station on Broad St.

The first fire company was established on July 4, 1789 at 24 South Broad St. Residents worked together to form a bucket brigade. Each resident had two buckets and ladders were placed at specific points around town. This company became the Protection Engine Company No. 1 in 1837. Their first machine was "old No. 28" purchased from New York City.

The early 1900s postcard shows a horse drawn ladder truck. August Gerstung was named Fire Chief in 1902 when the Fire Department went from a volunteer force to paid firemen. Gerstung served until 1931, leading the transformation from horse powered to motorized firefighting equipment. The original building was later replaced.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Elizabeth Hospital Then and Now

The top photo is a view of the St. Elizabeth Hospital in 1907, located at the corner of South Broad and Pearl Streets. In 1904, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth took on the responsibility of planning for a new hospital in Elizabeth. They purchased the property and home, located at 204 South Broad Street, that was formerly the residence of Dr. Charles C. Moore. The 1880 Census reported Dr. Moore lived there with daughter Mary, 27, sons Samuel, 10, Charles, 9 and Albert, 7, along with servants Eliza Early, 30 and Lydia George, 23, both from Virginia. The Italianate style brownstone structure was extensively renovated to care for 25 patients and opened as St. Elizabeth Hospital in 1905.

The hospital has expanded many times since then and today is part of the Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Julian Place at Morris Ave.

The 19th century three-story brick building at 2 Julian Place, corner of Morris Ave., had shops on the street level and professional offices on the second and third floors. Architects C. Godfrey Poggi and Clinton Mackenzie had their offices there in the early 1900s. Perhaps the location provided the natural light needed by architects of that era. Further up the block at 16 Julian Place, corner of Union Ave., was the bicycle shop of James Henderson. In 1902 he became one of the first dealers for the Indian motorcycle introduced that year. The business was later known as the Elizabeth Motor and Cycle Co.



Julian Place at Morris Ave. 1940

This is the same view of Julian Place at Morris Ave., taken by Public Service during the Christmas shopping season of 1940. The stores on the left are Texas Lunch, Elizabeth Camera, Benn Beauty Parlor, Turner's Shoe Repairing, Scott Hardware, and the Paul Hugelmann Ice Cream & Candy shop. On the right side is the K & J (Krinzman & Jaffe) Market at 247 Morris Ave. (Kean Building), the New Central Hotel, Modern Beauty Salon, Elk's Beauty Shop (the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Elks Club was on nearby Westfield Ave.) and Annette O'Brien's Beauty Salon. Paul Hugelmann lived in Elizabeth and was affiliated with the Loft candy and ice cream business. His company had stores in Elizabeth, Hoboken and Paterson.

The buildings along Julian Place were eventually demolished for a parking lot for Central Railroad commuters. There are now many Columbian businesses on Morris Ave., reflecting the more than 11,000 Columbians who now call Elizabeth home.



Central Railroad Station 1907

One of the best examples of the preservation of a historic building in Elizabeth is the Central Railroad Station, built 1891-1893. It was designed in the Romanesque Revival style by renowned architect Bruce Price (1845-1903). He created many of the Canadian Pacific Railway's magnificent chateau-type stations and hotels, including the Windsor Station in Montreal and the original Banff Springs Hotel in Alberta. Price also designed skyscrapers in New York and stately residences such as Georgian Court for George Jay Gould in Lakewood and the home of Frederick H. Levey that once graced North Broad Street.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Central Railroad Station Plaza. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The Central Railroad station was closed in August 1978 when the "Scoot" shuttle, connecting Cranford and Bayonne, made its last stop there. The building, registered as a historic landmark in 1984, was abandoned until the late 1990s when the City renovated the exterior and built a pedestrian plaza as part of a midtown redevelopment plan. Even the four clocks on the tower were repaired. A Spanish restaurant occupies the station today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



FEBREY BROS. *Fine Groceries, Fruits and Vegetables*
Agents for Chase & Sanborn's Teas and Coffees
TELEPHONE, L. D. 337
294-296-298 MORRIS AVENUE, - - ELIZABETH, N. J.



Former Febrey Bros. Grocery on Morris Ave.

Ever wonder what an early 1900s grocery store looked like? The top photo of 1907 shows the interior of the Febrey Bros. grocery store located at 294-298 Morris Ave. at the corner of Westfield Ave. Note the embossed tin ceiling and the overhead lights which were probably lit by gas. The pumpkins in the produce section indicate the photo was taken in the fall. The business was established by James E. Febrey who lived at 594 Jefferson Ave. and died in 1931.

The triangular shaped building was constructed around 1904 and remains in use today. The building has been well maintained with the decorative cornice, of carved supporting brackets under the eaves, in good condition.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Building at Morris and Westfield Avenues. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Three-story commercial buildings on the corners of Elizabeth are common. Most date to about 1900 and had stores on the first floor and apartments on the upper floors. Typical design features included wood support brackets under the eaves, stone trim above the windows and a rounded tower at the corner of the building.

Arnold Samuelson: "This building, 293-95 Morris Ave.. seems to date to about 1895 when Joseph Ziegler (1848-1896) moved his saloon called "The Temple" here from 283-85 Morris Ave. Ziegler died May 31, 1896. Philip Bick (1875-1936) ran a saloon here from about 1900-1920. Other occupants of the corner store were Dengler Liddy Bard Electrical Co. in the 1940s, followed by Ettinger's Confectionary from about 1950-1970. Felix Crincoli (1899-1983) had a barber shop at No. 293 from about 1917 until 1968, when Joe (The Barber) DiMaria moved in for a 44-year run. It has been empty since Joe closed shop Dec. 3, 2011."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Automobile Co. on Westfield Ave. Early 1900s

One of the earliest car dealers in the city was the Elizabeth Automobile Co., located in an 8,000 square foot building at 14 Westfield Ave. Owner Frederick V. Price started in the garage business as a mechanic in 1899 when he was 16 years old. He bought out the owners and developed a thriving repair business. A few years later Price became a dealer for Franklin and Regal cars. By 1913 he was selling 35-45 new cars a year. The business employed 14 men, with mechanics earning \$28 a week.

A 1910 Regal 30 touring car sold for \$1250, the equivalent of \$29,000 today. The Regal was built from 1907 to 1914 in Detroit, just a short distance from the first Ford Motor Company factory. The cars were equipped with a four cylinder, 25 hp engine.

The Westfield Ave. building was demolished years ago and the site is now a parking lot for the Bank of America building at the corner of Westfield Ave. and North Broad St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Hersh Motor Car Co. Buildings. Top Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The faded sign on the brick building at the left of the top photo advertises the Hersh Motor Car Co., an early Ford dealer in Elizabeth. The firm was established in 1913 by brothers Cecil S., Louis F., and Herman Hersh. The office and showroom were located in the building with the ornate facade at 27-31 Westfield Ave., shown in the bottom photo. The one-story building at the corner of Morris and Union Avenues was the service garage (top photo).

Hersh Ford moved to 655 Newark Ave. about 1955. The dealership became known as Nappa Ford and then Key Ford.

The Westfield Ave. building became Yock's Sporting Goods store.

A street-level photograph of a commercial building with a modern, industrial design. The building features large glass windows and a sign that reads "Camping Motors". A small, young tree is planted in a planter box in front of the building. To the right, a tall blue sign with a white Mercedes-Benz logo is visible. The sky is clear and blue. The image is watermarked with "© 2011 Google".

Edward K. Cumming Mercedes-Benz Dealer on Morris Ave.



Elizabeth Motors Ad for 1963 Super 88 Holiday Sedan

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Clifford Home on Union Ave.

The left photo dated 1907 is of the home of William Clifford at 358 Union Ave. Clifford was born in 1861 in Scotland and came to the U.S. in 1881. He was president of William Clifford & Sons Co., a general contractor for the construction of residential homes and commercial buildings.

The 1920 Census listed Clifford living there with his wife Elizabeth, sons John, 34 and William Jr., 23, daughter Elizabeth, 19 and maid Mary Reed, 21, from Poland. William Clifford Jr. was an architect with an office at 1177 East Grand St.

The building has been expanded and is used today by the Holy Redeemer Home Care service.



Bender Building on North Broad St.

Albert F. Bender, an Elizabeth lawyer and real estate developer, built the commercial Bender Building, 251 North Broad St., about 1925. The building remains today with an updated facade and appears to be fully occupied. Bender also built the Albender Building at 1143-1145 East Jersey St., a 10-story building that is still one of

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Williamson House Replaced by U.S. Post Office on North Broad St.

The top photo is a view of the Williamson House at the northwest corner of North Broad St. and Westfield Ave. It was built about 1808 by Isaac H. Williamson who was Governor of New Jersey 1817-1829. His son Benjamin altered and enlarged the house. The Greek Revival style house was later moved a short distance to Westfield Ave. to make way for the new Post Office which was completed in 1911. The Williamson House was remodeled and became the Elks Club.

The Post Office was designed by James Knox Taylor, the Department of Treasury's supervising architect. The Beaux-Arts inspired design included decorative columns, ornate friezes and cornices, and arched windows. The building was clad in limestone and topped by a copper roof. The lobby has a vaulted ceiling and plaster reliefs of American eagles on the ends. The elaborate Federal design was intended to inspire patriotism on the local level.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Site of D & B Used Car Lot on North Broad St., Opposite Winfield Scott Hotel on Left

The D & B used car business was established in the 1930s by my uncles Dominic (1904-1984), Nunzio (1906-2000) and Patrick Imbriaco (1914-2010). The brothers were expert auto mechanics, having learned to repair bicycles and then gasoline engines as they grew up on Reid St. In the late 1920s Dominic was the lead motorcycle mechanic for the Elizabeth Police Department and Nunzio installed seat covers on the auto assembly line at Durant Motors on Newark Ave. Their first used car business was located on Washington Ave. but later moved to a larger lot on North Broad St. opposite the Winfield Scott Hotel. Nearby on the corner of Prince St. was the Westminster Presbyterian Church, destroyed by a fire in 1944 and rebuilt in 1949 at North and Salem Avenues. Dominic salvaged some large beams from the fire and stored them in a shed at the car lot. A few years later he used the beams as the foundation of a new bungalow on Pelican Island, near Seaside Heights.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Imbriaco brothers sold the car business about 1950 and entered the motel business with the construction of the Colonial Motor Court on Rt. 22 in Springfield, which still operates today. In the early 1970s the car lot property became the site of a commercial building, seen as the second building from the right in today's view.

The ten-story Winfield Scott Hotel, on the left of today's view, was built in 1928. It has been converted into 48 residential units known as the Winfield Scott Senior Towers. A nightclub is on the ground floor.



Red Tower Hamburgers on North Broad St.

The Red Tower hamburger restaurant, shown in this early 1940s photo, was located on North Broad St. just north of the Post Office. My uncles' D & B Used Car business was next door to the restaurant. The Red Tower chain tried to compete with White Castle and White Tower by selling burgers for a nickel. Today the site is occupied by the Union County Savings Bank. A Red Tower remains on Rt. 22 in North Plainfield.



Union County Buick on North Broad St.

Union County Buick was established in 1915 by Edward A. Kammler. The first showroom was at 27 Westfield Ave. but in 1919 the firm moved to a new building at 339 North Broad St. and Magnolia Ave. (top photo) where it operated for many years. The used car department was nearby in a separate building shown in the bottom photo of 1969. Dealerships were also located in Westfield and Rahway. The business was eventually taken over by Edward A. Kammler Jr. My father bought a new Buick Regal there in the early 1970s upon his retirement as a chemical operator from GAF Corp. in Linden. He said every retired man deserves a new car!

Other car dealers operating in Elizabeth in the 1950s-1970s period include Moore Chevrolet, 525 North Broad St., Monarch Chrysler Plymouth, 505 North Broad St., Key Ford, 655 Newark Ave., and Smith Cadillac, 79 West Grand St. and Edward K. Cumming Mercedes-Benz, 416 Morris Ave. Car dealers in the city eventually relocated to higher traffic areas along Rt. 22 and Rt. 1.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Earl Scheib Paint Shop on Prince St.

This building at 72 Prince St. was formerly occupied by the Earl Scheib paint shop. I remember walking by it in the 1950s and seeing cars spray painted by guys working in a smelly, fog like atmosphere. Their only protection was a rag wrapped around their mouth and nose.

Scheib's trademark grating voice was heard on local TV commercials, usually during the Zacherly horror movies on WOR-TV Channel 9, shouting "I'm Earl Scheib, and I'll paint any car, any color for \$29.95. No ups, no extras." By 1977 Scheib's price had gone to \$49.95 but he also threw in \$10 of free body work.

The Earl Scheib shop on Prince St. closed in the mid-1990s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Engine Co. No. 6

Engine Co. No. 6 was organized in 1868 when it was located at 1089 Magnolia Ave. (building on right of postcard) near Jackson Ave. By the early 1900s, it had moved to 605 Pennsylvania Ave. at the corner of Fairmount Ave. This fire station is now closed.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Engine Co. No. 7 on Prince St.

Engine Co. No. 7 was established in this building at the corner of Prince St. and Irvington Ave. in the early 1900s. The company had a 1914 American LaFrance pumper. At the location today is the new Fire Headquarters building.



Nugent's Tavern on Newark Ave.

Nugent's Tavern at 844 Newark Ave. has an interesting history. The place was known as the Highway Restaurant when purchased by Joseph Nugent, Sr. in 1923. He served hot meals for \$.50 to workers at the former Durant Motors building across the street.

The Great Depression closed the Durant operation and business slumped until the restaurant became Nugent's Tavern when Prohibition ended in 1933. The tavern enjoyed business from workers in the new companies that moved into the former Durant plant and a nearby building, including General Instrument Corp., Burry Biscuit Corp., Breeze Corp., Vernon's Paper, Terry Candy Company, Wilcolator Corp., Elastic Stop Nut Corp., and the Schweitzer Paper Company.

The Nugent family sold the tavern in 1980 but it still operates today under that name.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Engine Company No. 2 on East Grand St.

Engine Company No. 2 of the Elizabeth Fire Department relocated to a new station at 1201 East Grand St. at Commerce Place in 1897 (top photo). Years later the company moved to 665 South Broad St. The station on East Grand St. was remodeled as a commercial building. The four-story building adjacent to the fire station was the New York Telephone Co. in the early 1900s. In 1890 there were only 150 telephone subscribers in the city, making about 1,000 calls daily.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Parking Authority Building on Commerce Place. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This building is along the CRR tracks at Commerce Place. It was previously a freight office for the railroad. Today it houses the Parking Authority of Elizabeth.



Left: Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association Right: "Old Vet" Pumper 1920

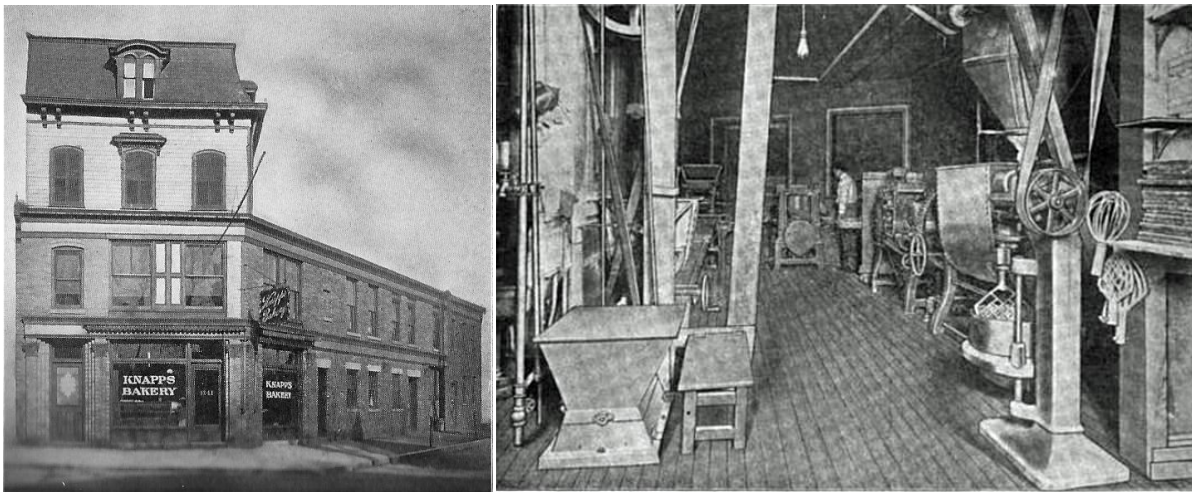
The Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association was located in the building on the left at 1165 East Grand St. The 1920 photo on the right, by Elizabeth photographer H. Fromm, is of "Old Vet", a hand pumper built around 1838. A gang of firemen would pull the pumper to the fire and then work the horizontal lever up and down to pump the water. Hand pumpers were later replaced by horse drawn steam engines. In 1904 "Old Vet" became the prized possession of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association. It was featured in annual parades of the Fire Department. The photo may have been taken in the yard of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association building. The new Police Station occupies the site today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Laggren Bros. Awnings on East Grand St. 1907

Awnings for homes and businesses were popular in the days before air conditioning. One of the largest suppliers in the East was Laggren Bros. at 1180 East Grand St. The firm also made flags, banners, and canopies for weddings. Upholstering and carpet cleaning services were provided in addition. The brothers R.G. and John R. Laggren started their business at 272 Morris Ave., near the CRR train station, in the early 1890s. The awning business continued until at least 1929. Subsequent uses of the three-story brick building included clothing manufacturing, a bail bonds office (the Police Station is across the street), and a tavern that operates there today.



Knapp's Bakery on East Grand St.

In the old days there were several bakeries in each Elizabeth neighborhood. We all remember walking to a nearby bakery on Sunday morning to pick up fresh bread, rolls and pastries. Knapp's Bakery, located for many years at the corner of East Grand St. and Jefferson Ave., is shown in this 1907 photo. The bottom photo shows the bakery interior, equipped with two dough mixers, cake mixer, Dutchess divider, Zerah rounding-up machine, proofing closet and Thomson standard loaf molder. This bakery sold 3000 loaves daily. Owner Edward Knapp lived a few blocks away at 446 Jefferson Ave. The building later became a bar but this has been razed and the site is now a vacant lot.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Morey LaRue Laundry Co. on West Jersey St.

The Morey LaRue Laundry Company was founded in Easton, Pennsylvania in 1890 by Mahlon Morey and William LaRue. In 1893 the company established its headquarters and main plant in Elizabeth at 16-18 West Jersey St. shown in this 1907 photo. Customers in neighboring towns like Cranford were serviced by horse-drawn wagons. Plants in Staten Island and Morristown were added later. Morey LaRue became one of the largest laundry and dry cleaning firms in the country. The Elizabeth operations were eventually moved to a modern plant at 2400 East Linden Ave. in Linden. The West Jersey St. site is now occupied by the Union County College.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



East Jersey St. from Broad St. 1962

This 1962 postcard is a view of East Jersey St. from Broad St. The Second Presbyterian Church dates to 1821. The Elizabeth Carteret Hotel was built in 1927 and had 200 rooms with bath, banquet facilities and a bar. It was converted to an assisted living residence in 2004 called Amber Court. Next to it is the ten-story Albender Building, erected by lawyer and real estate developer Albert F. Bender. The futuristic looking City Federal Savings building at the end of the block (partially obscured) was built in the late 1950s.



Maiden Lane Jewelry on East Jersey St.

This 1903 photo is of the Maiden Lane Jewelry and The Fair Dry Goods stores. The jewelry store was probably named after the street in Manhattan where jewelry was the main business in the 19th century. The building is at 1156-1158 East Jersey St. It was remodeled and named the "J-T Building", next door to the Altenburg Piano House.

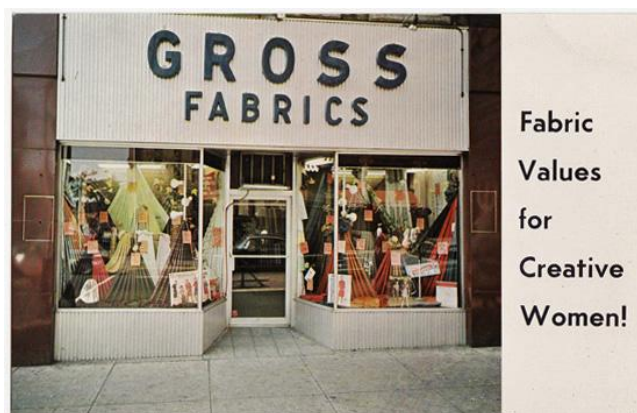
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



McManus Bros. Furniture Store on East Jersey St.

McManus Bros. was the leading furniture store in the city for years. The business relocated from Elizabethport to a new building on East Jersey St. in 1917. The Grand Rapids Furniture Record of 1918 carried the following story: *"McMANUS BROS., furniture dealers at Elizabeth, N. J., recently occupied their new store building, just completed, one of the finest furniture buildings in the country in cities of Elizabeth's class. It has four floors and a basement, in addition to a mezzanine. The concern was established 37 years ago, and its business has been dominated by the merchandising principle, "Satisfaction Guaranteed." The front of the new building is of pure white terra cotta, and the sides also being white, give the structure a prominence in the business section that makes it one of the show places of the community. The interior decorations are white, gray and mahogany, and the store is one of unusual beauty. The offices of the president, Ambrose McManus, and the vice president and treasurer, Harry McManus, are on the mezzanine floor; the main offices are in charge of the secretary, J. J. Farrell. The company carries a large line of all kinds of high-grade furniture, phonographs, heaters, ranges and refrigerators."*

The furniture ad on the left is from 1952. McManus Bros. went out of business some years ago. The building is currently used by the Altenburg Piano House, a long established business on East Jersey St.



Gross Fabrics Store on East Jersey St.

My mother shopped at fabric stores like Gross Fabrics, located at 1144 East Jersey St. near the Ritz theater. She made her own dresses from purchased patterns, using a foot powered treadle Singer sewing machine. Stores on Elizabeth Ave. also sold fabrics as did a peddler in the Union Square open air market.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Martin Building-Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden

John Francis Martin came to Elizabeth in 1897, after studying embalming in a New York City school. He went into the undertaking business with his mother Mary M. Martin and the firm was known as M.M. Martin & Son. In 1903 they purchased the property at the corner of East Jersey St. and Jefferson Ave. and built a three-story brick

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

building, shown in the top right photo. The funeral home was on the ground floor and a stable for horses and carriages was in the rear.

Martin married Mary M. Corcoran of Elizabeth in 1904 and they had five children-Margaret, Mary, John, Betty and William. In 1920 Martin was elected president of the National Funeral Directors' Association, where he advocated for the right of the funeral business to advertise. He later erected a new six-story building on the site of the original Martin Building and moved the funeral home to 1019 East Jersey St. This Victorian home was once owned by Calvin B. Orcutt who was president of Newport News Shipbuilding Co. John F. Martin Jr. later took over the funeral home which was in business until at least 1951.

I thank Arnold Samuelson for contributing to this history.



Former Site of Moody-Barton Press Co. on East Jersey St.

John Moody was born in Jersey City in 1868. He entered journalism in 1888 by starting a weekly newspaper in Bayonne. After the newspaper failed, Moody joined the Wall St. banking firm of Spencer Trask & Co. where he

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

developed an elaborate financial and statistical bureau. This led to the publication of his Manual of Corporation Securities in 1900 which today is still a standard reference work on industrial corporations.

About 1901 Moody partnered with Nelson Barton to establish the Moody-Barton Press, located in a two-story L-shaped brick building on the corner of East Jersey St. and Jefferson Avenue. The company printed Moody's financial books, periodicals and the Elizabeth Evening Times. It had a circulation of 5,000 copies and covered both Elizabeth and Union County. Moody left the company in 1907 to pursue his financial business and Barton became the sole owner of the Evening Times. Publication of the Evening Times stopped in 1932 because of the Depression. That left the city with only one newspaper, the Elizabeth Daily Journal.

The Moody-Barton Press building was razed after 1987. The site is now occupied by a four-story building shown in the bottom photo. The Trinitas Regional Medical Center has a clinic there.

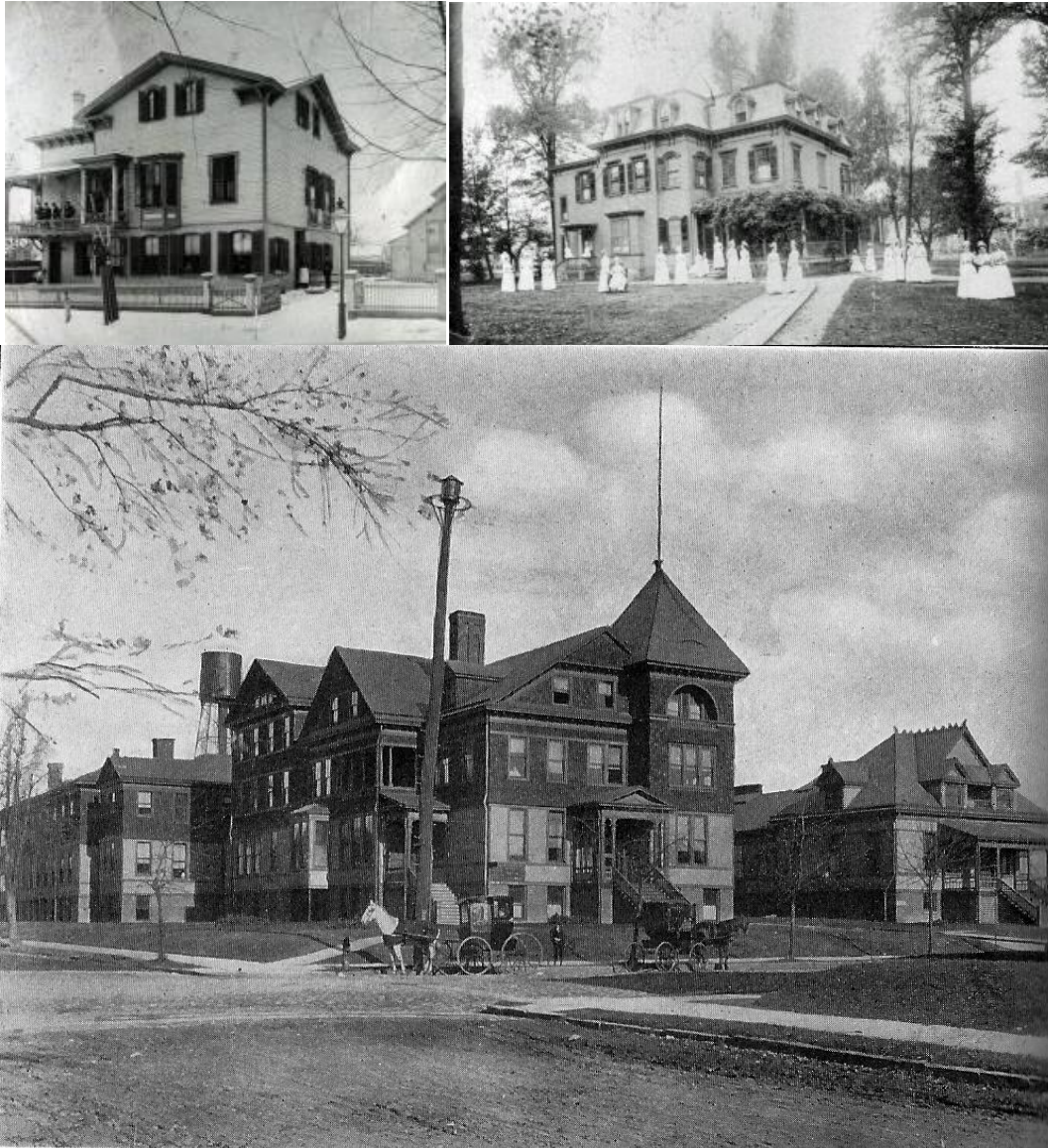


Left: John J. Engel. Right: Engel Funeral Home Location on East Jersey St.

The Engel Funeral Home was located at 954 East Jersey St. John J. Engel, son of John Engel who owned a clothing store on Broad St., became a funeral director in 1900. My grandparents John and Carmela Imbriaco lived nearby at 44 Reid St. Engel used the ten foot wide alleyway alongside the Imbriaco home to move funeral cars to and from his business. This was not a problem for the Imbriaco family until 1929 when their son Joseph was killed in the first fatal plane crash at newly opened Newark Airport. Carmela was despondent over the loss of her son; seeing the Engel funeral hearse and flower car procession driving by her kitchen window several times a week worsened her depression. The Imbriacos filed a lawsuit to enjoin the Engel Funeral Home from using the alleyway. However the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in favor of the funeral home in 1933, citing Engel's right of easement to use the alleyway for his business.

Engel died in 1957. Kreitzman's Jewish Memorial Home operated there beginning in 1964. The funeral home was demolished along with other houses on the block after 1972 to make way for a parking lot.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



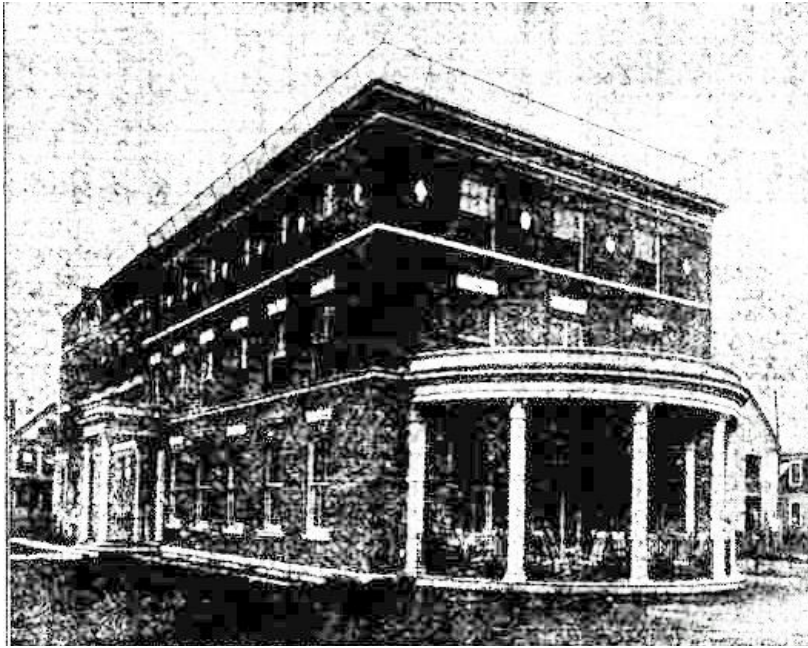
Elizabeth General Hospital in Early 1900s

The first medical facility in Elizabeth, a two-room surgical clinic, was established by four physicians in 1877. This led to the founding of the Elizabeth General Hospital and Dispensary in 1880. The top left photo shows the early 20-bed hospital, located in a home on Jacques Street. Property on the northeast corner of East Jersey and Reid Streets was acquired and a larger hospital was built about 1890, as seen in the bottom photo. A School of Nursing was established by the Elizabeth General Ladies Aid Society in 1891. Nurses and nursing students lived in a nearby residence (top right photo) donated by Calvin B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding Co. and the Baltimore & Ohio Coal Co. He lived at 1019 East Jersey and served on the hospital board of directors. The Nurses Residence was an elegant three-story home topped with a mansard roof, typical of the Second Empire architectural style popular in Elizabeth in the 19th century.

Arnold Samuelson: "The nurses' residence at 1007 East Jersey St., corner Spring St., was built about 1875 as the home for Mary Randall Baremore, a wealthy widow whose diamond-trader husband James Baremore had died in Paris in 1867, and her three sons: George D., a malt and hops trader; James E., a diamond merchant, and Henry R., a glue dealer, all in New York. By 1888, Mary was living at the Osborne, the palatial apartment building at Seventh Ave. and 57th St. in New York. George froze to death in the Blizzard of '88 – he was making his way from his

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

mother's apartment to his office on Water St., but the elevated trains were not running. He was found the next day in a snow bank. Mary died in 1893, and the funeral was held from her Elizabeth home. Calvin Orcutt acquired the former Baremore home and donated it to Elizabeth General Hospital as a residence for nurses."

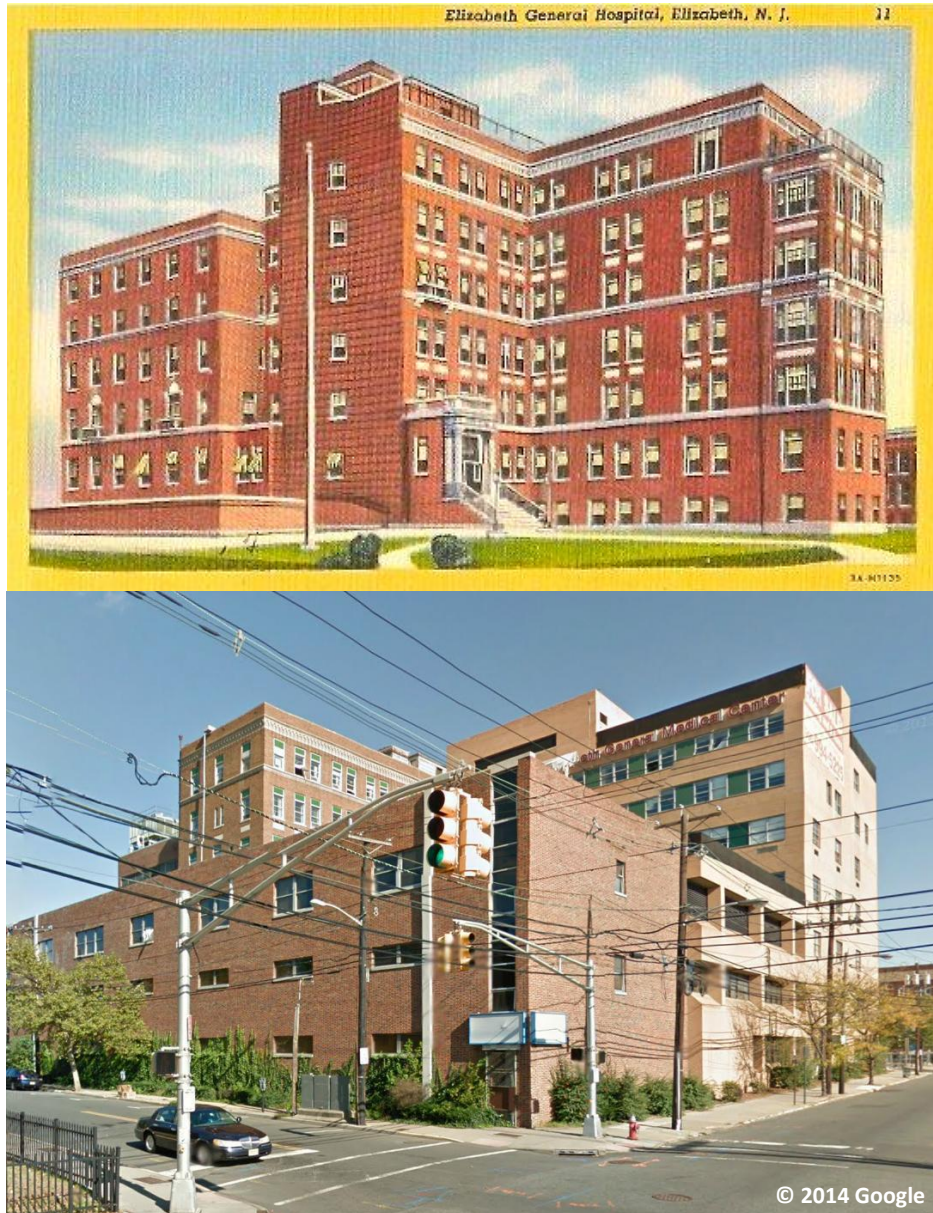


New Residence for Nurses on Reid St. 1915

The Elizabeth General Hospital opened a new 3-story residence building in 1915 to house 50 nurses and student nurses. It was located on the hospital grounds at 133 Reid St. There were two reception rooms for nurses to entertain callers and a large recreation room. The building was demolished around 1979 to make way for a hospital expansion.

A School of Nursing remains at the Trinitas Regional Medical Center on South Broad St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth General Hospital ca. 1940 and Today

The Elizabeth General Hospital greatly expanded over the years and In 2000 merged with St. Elizabeth Hospital to form the Trinitas Regional Medical Center. The Elizabeth General Hospital was recently closed and the site is for sale for redevelopment. Demolition of some buildings took place in 2017.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Alexian Brothers Hospital Horse Drawn Ambulance Replaced by Vehicle in 1915

The bottom photo shows the Hudson Motor Car ambulance purchased by Alexian Brothers Hospital in 1915 that replaced the horse drawn version. Rev. Brother Alban Bauer, superintendent of the hospital, sometimes drove the ambulance with Dr. James E. Roach. The 4,800 pound vehicle was driven at an average speed of 40 mph. During a labor riot near Carteret, the ambulance rushed from the scene to Elizabeth, 18 miles away, with a load of eight persons in 25 minutes.

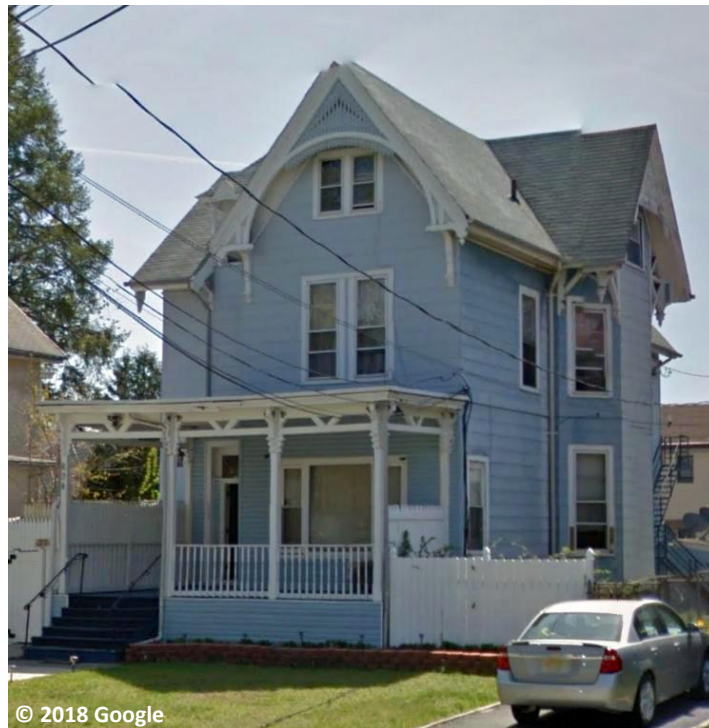
In the same year the Elizabeth General Hospital purchased a White Motor Co. ambulance.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Memorial Osteopathic Hospital on Morris Ave. as Private Home ca. 1900

The smallest hospital in Elizabeth was the Memorial Osteopathic Hospital on Morris Avenue opposite Parker Road. Founded in 1944 by five physicians, the hospital was located in the former three-story Victorian mansion built in 1896 by druggist John Fulton, Jr. In 1962 the hospital moved to a new 76 bed facility at 1000 Galloping Hill Road in Union that became known as Memorial General Hospital. Over the years it was expanded to 201 beds and renamed Union Hospital. Later it was taken over by the St. Barnabas system and now is used as an ER by Overlook Hospital. The original building on Morris Ave. was demolished after 1962 and replaced by apartments.

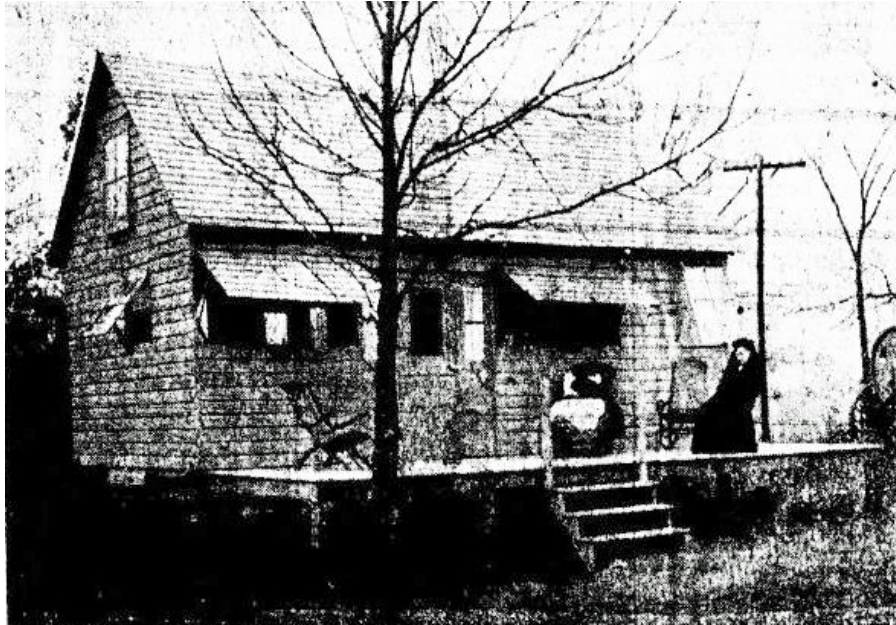


Former Quinn Maternity Hospital on Wyoming Ave.

Babies were delivered with the help of midwives at Mrs. Quinn's Maternity Hospital, also called Mary Quinn's Maternity Center. Some of my relatives may have been born there in the 1930s-1940s. The 1921 City Directory listed Mary Quinn as a nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital where she lived in residence.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

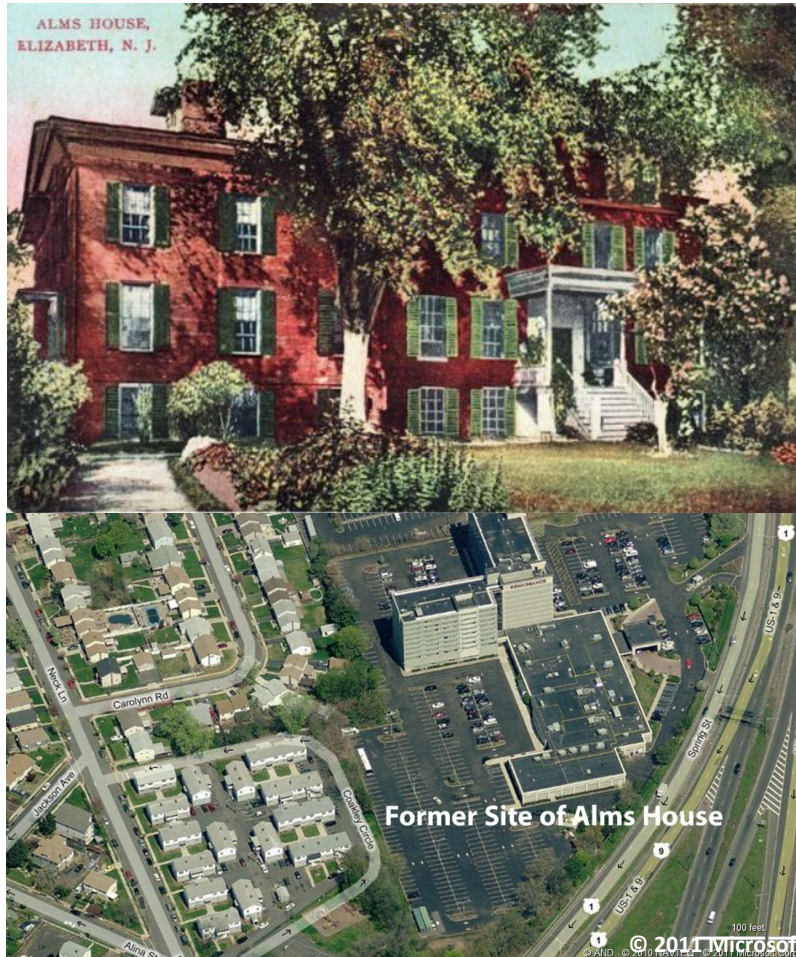
Arnold Samuelson: "Miss Anna M. Quinn died May 7, 1949 at her home, 638 Wyoming Ave. She had operated a private maternity home in Elizabeth for 28 years, according to her obituary in the New York Times. She was 74 years old and an early graduate of the Elizabeth General Hospital School of Nursing. According to city directories from 1939 to 1947, the maternity home was at her residence 638 Wyoming Ave."



First Tuberculosis Camp in Elizabeth 1910

Tuberculosis was a serious disease in the early 1900s, with a significant mortality rate. But treatment in the incipient stage was limited to exposing patients to fresh air and sunshine. The Trinity Episcopal Church (North Broad St.) setup this cabin in the rear of a lot on Newark Ave. at Fanny St. The neighborhood was lightly populated so objections from residents to this camp were not expected. There was room for five patients who sat outside during daylight hours. They slept with the windows open, except in severe weather. Their diet was mainly eggs and milk. A nurse was on duty to care for them.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Alms House on Neck Lane

The Alms House was located on property along Neck Lane and Meadow Street that was once part of the Woodruff family farm in 1824. Alms houses, or poor houses as they were also known, were tax supported residential institutions for indigents who were called inmates. Residents included adults and children. In 1899 there were 50 residents, 20 of whom were there due to alcoholism, with the remainder having mental problems or physical ailments like epilepsy that prevented them from working. Conditions in poor houses were often grim but the Elizabeth facility was reported as one of the better ones.

The original complex consisted of the main building for residents and the superintendent and his family, two barns, a corncrib and a chicken house. There was extensive acreage which was farmed and a pasture for cows. The site had an Isolation Hospital built for Elizabeth residents suffering from scarlet fever or diphtheria. A burial ground for potters was also located there.

In 1946 the Alms House and other buildings were demolished to expand Route 1. The Isolation Hospital was converted to the Alvin R. Eaton Memorial Home for the indigent. Dr. Alvin R. Eaton was a prominent surgeon who developed a procedure for administering anesthetics at Elizabeth General Hospital. He served as Coroner of Union County before his death in 1932.

The Eaton Memorial Home operated until it closed around 1960 when there were only 20 to 30 residents left. In 1971 the City sold the property for the expansion of Newark Airport and the construction of hotels along Route 1 south.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Building on Spring St. at Flora St. Top Photo ca. 1940 Courtesy of Brian Baldwin.

This building is located at 461-465 Spring St. (Rt. 1) at Flora St. On the left of the vintage photo is a store called Highway Refrigeration; on the right is the East End Tavern; the middle store might be Hoffman's.

The 1919 City Directory lists the building as the Charles Novotny confectionary store and also the location of Post Office Substation 3. Charles Novotny was the superintendent of the post office branch. Also living there was Louis Novotny, a Singer employee and Julius Jelinek, Singer employee.

I thank Brian Baldwin for contributing this photo. He said his grandfather, Thomas Creanza, and great grandfather, Nicola "Nick" Creanza, lived nearby at 1008 Flora St. according to the 1930 Census. Nicola Creanza was an immigrant from Italy (1912) who established an ice, coal and kerosene delivery business on Flora St.

Today the building is a grocery store. A window on each floor has been covered over, perhaps when the building was remodeled with stucco applied over the brick.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Julia St. View West to Jackson Ave.

The top photo of 1948 shows the repaving of Julia St. near the intersection of Jackson Ave. There is a Boller soda delivery truck in the background. The corner store was called The Sugar Bowl. Note the slate sidewalks on the left that were common throughout Elizabeth. Kids walking along them would say "Step on a crack, break your mother's back".

The view today of this intersection shows the buildings on the corners unchanged, but the beautiful curbside trees are gone. Further down Julia St. on the right is Lafayette Junior High School, built around 1930.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Ave. from Broad St. Christmas Season 1940.

The intersection of Elizabeth Ave. and Broad St. is one of the busiest corners in the city. Christmas decorations were displayed along this stretch of Elizabeth Ave. at Broad St. in a photo taken in December 1940 by Public Service. Stores on the left include Goldfein's Radio, Reliable Fur, Solomon's Sporting Goods, Schulmans, Re-Co Style Shop, and City Linoleum. Further down the block was the Liberty theater. Stores on the right are the Thompson Typewriter Exchange, Kolker's, R & S Auto, Cohen Tuxedos, Pep Boys and the Henry Cook Print Shop. On the far right is the Campbell Hotel with a barber shop.

The stores along this stretch of Elizabeth Ave. have some interesting history. Louis Kolker, a native of Denmark, established Kolker's Toy Store in 1929. He owned and operated the store for 54 years before retiring in 1983. He died in 1985 at age 79.

The original "Pep Boys" were Emanuel "Manny" Rosenfeld, Maurice "Moe" Strauss, Graham "Jack" Jackson and Moe Radavitz, four friends who pooled \$800 in 1921 to open an auto parts store. They dubbed it "Pep Auto Supplies" after the Pep valve grinding compound which they sold. Later the name was changed to "The Pep Boys — Manny, Moe & Jack" (Radavitz cashed out). Shortly thereafter they commissioned the Manny, Moe and Jack caricatures that still serve as the company's logo. When Jackson left in 1925, his caricature was replaced with that of Moe's brother, Isaac (Izzy) Strauss. In 1990 Manny's cigar was removed from the logo. In 1939 Izzy Strauss left to form his own auto supply business in Brooklyn, Strauss Stores, which later merged with Roth & Schlenger Home and Auto.

Today Pep Boys operates in 35 states but is no longer in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Henry Cook Print Shop (Left) on Elizabeth Ave. 1917

The Henry Cook Printshop was at 1160-1164 Elizabeth Ave., in the building on the left side of this photo, taken in 1917 during the repaving of Elizabeth Ave. Note the trolley tracks in the foreground. Henry Cook was born in Montreal and came to Elizabeth with his parents in 1853. He served three years in the Civil War in the Ninth New Jersey Volunteers. After the war he joined his brother John in publishing the newspaper "Elizabeth Daily Herald", a business which led to the establishment of the print shop in a building constructed in 1845 as the Water Street Methodist Church. For 35 years Cook did the printing for the Singer Manufacturing Company. He was a Mason and served on the board of education. Cook died in 1913 at age 74.

Behind the Henry Cook building was Sayer's Row, an 8-unit tenement along the Elizabeth River. Sayer's Row and the Henry Cook building have been demolished and a parking lot is there today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



THE JOHN McGRATH BUILDING, 1155-1157 ELIZABETH AVENUE.
John McGrath, Dealer in Flour, Feed, Grain, Etc.



McGrath Feed and Grain Store on Elizabeth Ave.

Although all of the historic residences on the south side of Elizabeth Avenue between Broad and Bridge Streets have disappeared, many of the 19th century commercial buildings on the north side are still in use today. This

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

building is at 1155-1157 Elizabeth Ave. and was occupied in the 1880s by Joseph McGrath, a dealer in flour, feed and grain.



JACOB FRANCIS Dealer in FINE MEATS AND POULTRY
'Phone 917. 1109 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.

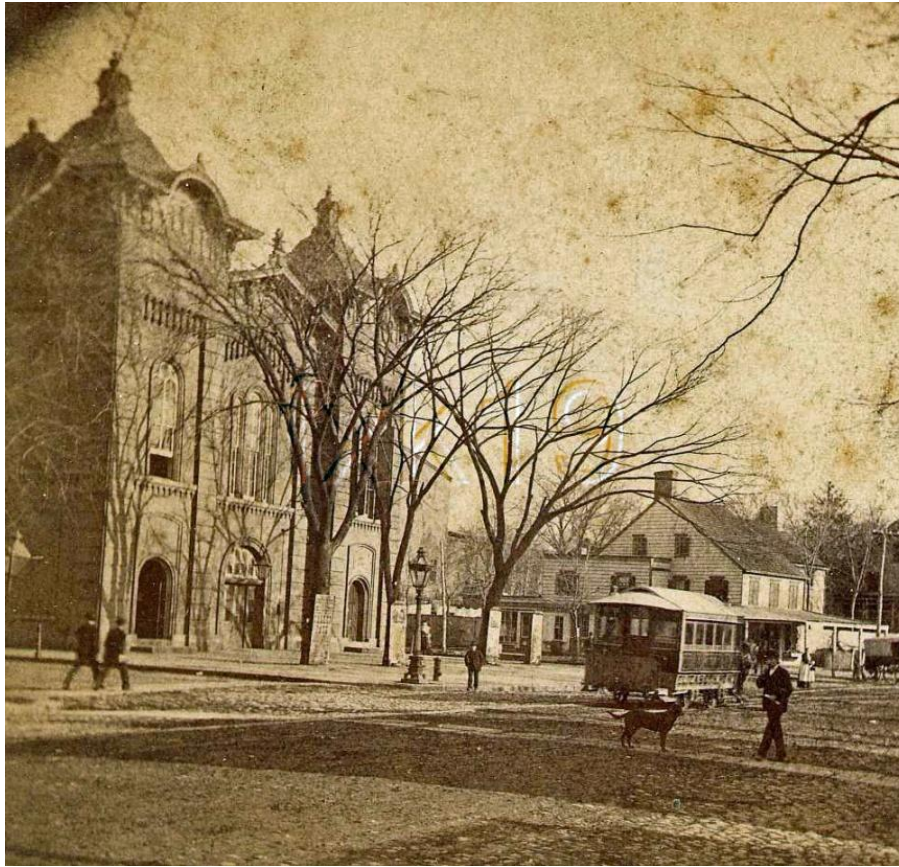


Jacob Francis Meats on Elizabeth Ave.

The Jacob Francis meat store, shown in this 1907 photo, was located at 1109 Elizabeth Ave., corner of West Scott Place. Note the cured meats hanging on racks in the front windows. The 1921 City Directory lists the store as run

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

by Herbert Francis, who lived at 230 South St. The building remains today, still with awnings over the ground floor windows.



City Hall on Elizabeth Ave. ca. 1870s. Photo Courtesy of fvk19 All About Paper.

This 1870s photo is a view of the City Hall on Elizabeth Ave. between East and West Scott Place. The building was erected in 1865. The city offices and council chamber were on the second floor with the first floor housing a public market. The police department, jail and armory of the Third Regiment were also in the building. Note the horse drawn trolley heading east on the Avenue. The old City Hall was closed in 1940 upon the opening of the new four-story City Hall on West Scott Place. The building was demolished in 1947.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Last Meeting of City Council in Old City Hall July 5, 1940

Seated left to right: Councilmen Thomas A. Ford, Joseph J. Leonard, William G. Dowd, Jr., John Drotar, Jr., Edmund C. Heskin, James J. Davis, Michael Nittoli, Joseph Sullivan

Standing left to right: Councilmen Matthew A. Rauh, Clarence E. Gates, Nelson L. Carr, Pres. Jeremiah J. Dwyer, Asst. City Clerk Thomas P. Luchio, Councilman Ogden Beatty, Acting City Atty. J. J. Griffin, City Clerk P. F. Keelan, Asst. City Atty. R. A. Leary, Comptroller P. F. McGann, Page William Cochrane, Callahan J. McCarthy of Historical Commission, Leo B. Wojcik, secretary to Mayor James T. Kirk



W. R. Richart Drugstore on Elizabeth Ave. at East Scott Place 1907

William Rufus Richart, a "dispensing chemist and druggist", operated a drug store on the corner of Elizabeth Ave. and East Scott Place in the 1890s. By 1907 he had filled 185,000 prescriptions. His ad said the store was the headquarters for trusses, crutches, elastic hosiery and physician supplies. Richart, who was in business for 40 years, died in 1948 at age 77. Today the site is occupied by a restaurant next to the Thomas Jefferson High School, built in 1929.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First Police Patrol Car in Elizabeth 1914

Elizabeth purchased its first police patrol car in 1914. This National model had a six-cylinder, 36 hp motor, 132 inch wheelbase, weighed 4,400 pounds and had a top speed of 50 mph. It had an electric starter and headlights. The cost of the custom built vehicle was high at \$2,800, equivalent to \$60,200 today. Patrol cars and motorcycles gradually replaced bicycle patrols.

This photo was taken at Police Headquarters which was then located in the original City Hall building at Elizabeth Ave. and Scott Place. Police Chief Michael J. Mulcahy is believed to be pictured on the left. The man holding the straw hat is Mayor Victor Mravlag who was a physician and Mayor during 1909-1911 and 1913-1923.



Policeman Frank Brennan

THE AMERICAN CITY

4 Gunmen Captured— \$2,800 Cash Recovered!


MEET Sergeant Frank Brennan and his Harley-Davidson Motorcycle—both members of the Elizabeth, N. J., Police Department. The Sergeant and his Harley-Davidson recently captured four notorious New York gunmen after a stiff fight in which two bandits were shot. \$2,800 in cash was recovered.

All in a day's work for a Harley-Davidson. In over 900 cities and towns, these police motorcycles are hunting crime, chasing speeders, enforcing parking rules, answering emergency calls and performing a variety of daily service duties.

Cost? The Harley-Davidson's noted economy (50 miles for a dollar—gas, oil, tires, and all) and its long life make it an investment that pays big dividends to the city.

Write for special literature, the reduced prices and the improvements on 1923 models. Or ask your local dealer for free demonstration.

**Harley-Davidson
Motor Co.**
Milwaukee Wisconsin



Harley-Davidson World's Champion Motorcycle

Elizabeth policeman Frank Brennan sits on an early model Harley-Davidson in the left photo of 1917. He covered 3,500 miles in five months of patrol and wrote \$500 in speeding tickets. He was living at the time at 311 Rosehill Place. The 1922 ad at the right indicates he was now a sergeant and had captured four gunmen, recovering \$2,800 from a robbery. Brennan was chief of police 1936-1955.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Former Police Headquarters on Morrell St. Right: New Police Headquarters on East Grand St.

In 1929 Police Headquarters moved to a new building on Morrell St. Police cars were parked in an underground garage. My uncle Dominic Imbriaco started work at the police department as a bicycle mechanic and later in the 1920s became their lead motorcycle mechanic.

Today the police headquarters is in a new building on East Grand St. The Morrell St. building was converted to residential apartments.



Campbell Art Co. on Elizabeth Ave.

Alfred S. Campbell (1840-1912) was an English photographer and entrepreneur who came to the U.S. in 1866. He started the Campbell Art Co., located at 1144 Elizabeth Ave., about 1871. The firm produced art prints for books, magazines and greeting cards. In 1896 over 300 people worked there. Today the Campbell Art building is a furniture store.

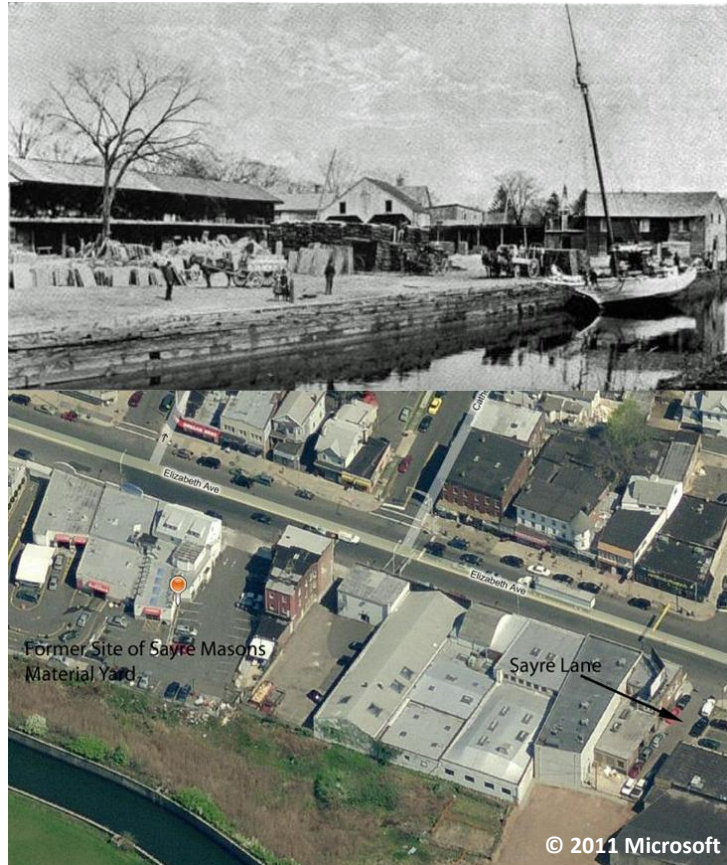
Some of Alfred S. Campbell's stereo views are at the Library of Congress. One of his paintings, dated 1899, is in the Smithsonian. Campbell and his family lived in Elizabeth.

In 1894 the ruins of a stone building were discovered along the Elizabeth River just west of this factory. They were at first thought to be part of the mansion of Governor Carteret, where the first Legislative Assembly met on May 26, 1668. The grounds where the ruins were found belonged to the J. C. Ogden estate and was sold as the site for the Campbell Art Co. Mr. Ogden was a lineal descendant of John Ogden who came from England with Governor Carteret and was one of the first settlers of Elizabeth.

However by 1907 it was realized that Carteret's first home and government house was actually located just west of Bridge St. In 1680 Carteret built a second home and government house on the property slightly west of the Campbell Art Company. This was at the rear of 1150-1152 Elizabeth Ave. , midway between the Avenue and the Elizabeth River. This house was later sold and converted into a tavern known as the "White House". In 1735 it was owned by Benjamin Hill under the name of the "Ship" and in 1763 it was called the "Nag's Head Tavern". In 1784 it was advertised for sale as "That Large, Commodious and Famous Brick House, known by the name of the White

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

House, built in the strongest and best manner by a former Governor of New Jersey for the seat of government, situated on the river running through the Town on which is a very good Wharf."



Sayre Co. Building Materials Yard off Elizabeth Ave.

The T. F. and H. C. Sayre Co. , established 1879, was one of the earliest suppliers of building materials in the city. In 1885 the firm relocated its yard along the Elizabeth River in the rear of 1068 Elizabeth Avenue. Masons materials were sold for commercial and residential building including lime, cement, plaster, brick and bluestone for sills, steps, curbs and flagstones. The firm could receive and deliver materials by both water and rail, having a dock on the Elizabeth River and a yard at the Pennsylvania Railroad freight station. Wagon load shipments were made to smaller customers. The firm was still listed in the 1921 city directory but eventually closed.

The Sayre family was one of the oldest in Elizabeth and Sayre St. may have been named after them. There is also a Sayre Lane adjoining the Standard Lumber store that was probably an access road leading to the old masonry yard.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



**Former Location of Ludwig Paint Supply on Elizabeth Ave.
Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.**

The faded Ludwig Decorator sign on the left side of this building represented the paint supply business of Louis Ludwig. His home and business were located in the building at 1062 Elizabeth Ave. according to the 1921 City Directory. Ludwig was previously a partner in the paint supply store at 33 Broad St. known as Ludwig & Glasser. This store was damaged by a fire in 1898 that burned Ludwig severely but he survived. Ludwig died in 1945.

Many of the old commercial buildings in the city like this one have distinctive facades, with arched windows, decorative keystones and sculptured supporting brackets under the roof eaves.



Queen Anne Style Building on Elizabeth Ave.

The building at 1051-55 Elizabeth Ave. is an excellent example of 19th century Queen Anne commercial architecture. The rounded tower topped with conical roof, sculptured brackets under the eaves, dentil molding along the roof line, and scalloped shingles are all original.

In 1919 the building housed the Horowitz & Shield upholstery shop, Nathan Hunsher tailor shop and the office of Dr. Otto Wagner.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Reuter Grain Business on Catherine St.

Many of Elizabeth's businesses were started by hard working immigrants from Europe. John M. Reuter, born in Bavaria, Germany, came to the U.S. in 1882 when he was 18 years of age. In 1886 he found a job with Paul T. Norton, a coal and grain dealer in Elizabethport. Reuter soon became manager of the business. He started his own company in 1889 with a yard and warehouse at 456 East Jersey St., dealing in coal, grain, feed and hay.

In 1904 John M. Reuter & Co. expanded with a plant and warehouse at 221 Catherine St. alongside the Central Railroad. At this location was a coal yard and a grain mill to supply the local market. The mill burned down in 1920 and was not rebuilt. About this time Reuter entered the road building business, and built macadam and cement roads in South Jersey. In 1923 he paved East Grand and Third Streets. He and his wife Katherine, whom he married in 1887, had six children. Reuter was a member of the local Elks Lodge and the Elizabeth Turn Verein.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Ave. East from Spring St.

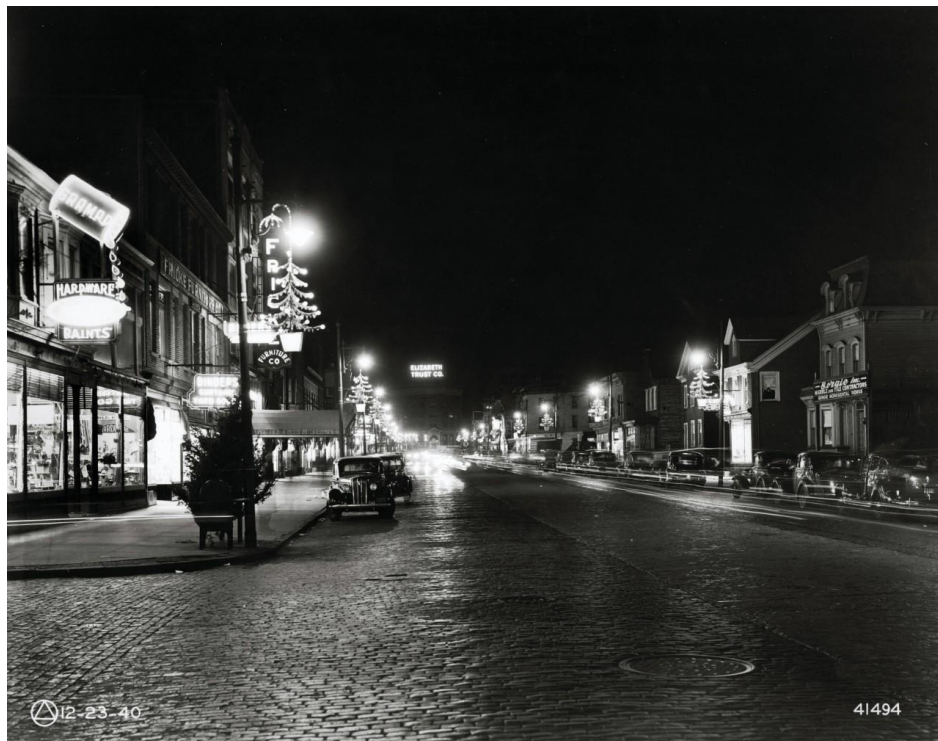
The top photo of Elizabeth Ave. looking east from Spring St. is dated 1917. At the time, the city was replacing the original cobblestone streets with smoother and longer lasting granite blocks, which were grouted in place. The view today shows the trolley tracks are gone but most of the buildings remain in use.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Asnon Photography Studio on Elizabeth Ave. at Reid St. 1889

The Alexander F. Asnon photography studio was located at 941 Elizabeth Ave. and the corner of Reid St. Asnon was born in France and came to New York as a child. He learned the photography trade and opened a studio in Brooklyn. In 1882 he came to Elizabeth and setup a skylight studio on the second floor of 109 Broad St. He later moved the studio to Elizabeth Ave. He was fluent in English, French and German. The studio closed in 1900. The building was later replaced.

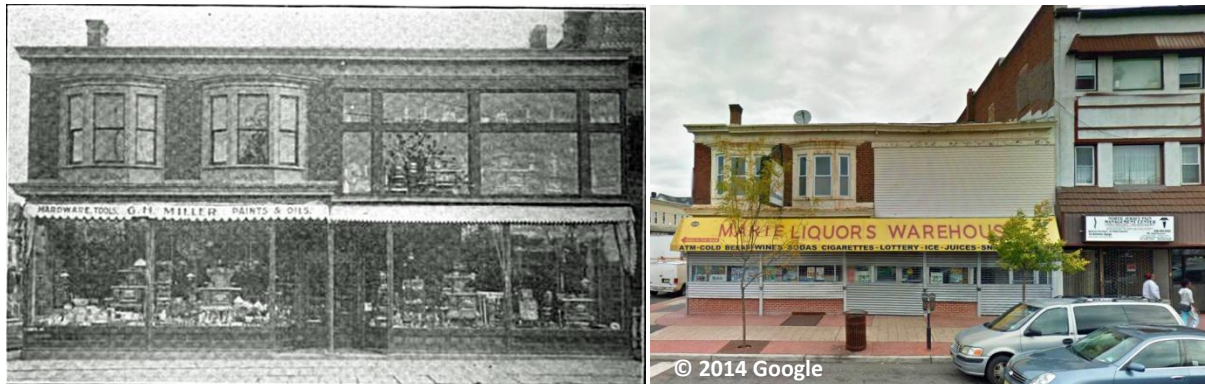


Elizabeth Ave. East from Reid St. 1940

Christmas decorations were on display in this December 1940 photo of Elizabeth Ave. looking east from Reid St. On the left is Grampp Hardware, Binder's Curtains and Fricke Furniture. Further down is the Elizabeth Trust Co.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

building at Union Square. On the right is Sorgie Marble and Tile Contractors, a jewelry store and a store with the sign Ajax. Out of view on the right is Dr. George Knauer's impressive Victorian home and office. We lived a block away on South St. and bought our Christmas trees from a vendor who used a vacant lot between these homes.



Former Grampp Hardware Store on Elizabeth Ave.

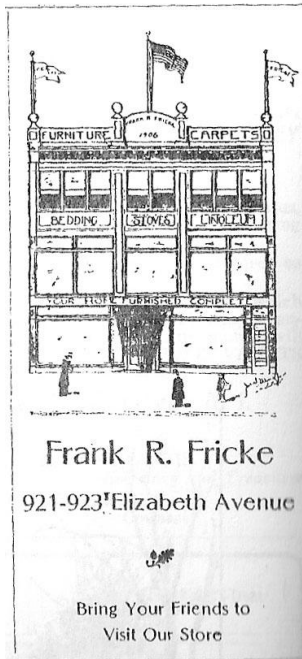
I remember going with my father to the Grampp Hardware store for all our home repair needs in the 1950s. Located at 929-931 Elizabeth Ave. at the corner of Reid St., Grampp Hardware served neighborhood residents since opening sometime after 1921. The owner was Frederick Grampp, who was born in Baden, Germany in 1871, the son of Frederick and Josephine Grampp. He attended public schools there and came to this country in 1884. He was a printer for 18 years and then became owner of the Park Hotel at 100 Trumbull St. This was a boarding house and saloon located directly across from the Singer sewing machine works. The block was lined with boarding houses and saloons including German owned Hergert's, Peter's, Hoffmann's and Deuchmann's. Grampp operated the Park Hotel for 19 years and lived there with his family.

In 1912 Grampp purchased the Mountainside Hotel on Springfield Road in Westfield. He moved the hotel building to the rear of the property and built a fine home for his family residence in the front. The hotel was closed around 1923. Perhaps it was around this time he purchased the hardware business of George H. Miller shown in the left photo of 1907. Note the prominent display windows, even on the second floor which were later covered.

Grampp had married Mary Marz in New York City in 1893. Mary was also a native of Germany. They had four children-William, born 1895; Walter, born 1897; Frederick, born 1909; and Elsa, born 1914. Sons Walter and Frederick worked with their father in the hardware business. Frederick had a son Frederick T. Grampp Jr., a computer industry consultant who worked in the store as a young man. An Elizabeth resident all his life, Frederick Jr. died in 2000 at age 58. His father died in 2008 in Florida.

The store carried a full line of hardware in addition to garden tools, screen wire, window glass, dishes and bric-a-brac. It was best place in Elizabeth to find odd-sized fasteners and to get expert advice on repair problems. The store closed a few years ago, a victim of the recession and national chain stores like Home Depot. A liquor store occupies the building today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Fricke Furniture on Elizabeth Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Frank R. Fricke was born in Elizabeth in 1868 and started a furniture business in 1890. His first store may have been in the port section. In 1906 he moved the business to a building at 921-923 Elizabeth Ave. , attracting customers from all over the city. In addition to a complete line of furniture, the store sold stoves, bedding, carpet and linoleum.

Fricke incorporated the business in 1922 with \$125,000 in capital. He was president and his wife Edna and son Frank Fricke Jr. were officers of the company. They lived at 1305 North Ave. Fricke died in 1941 but family members continued to operate the business for many years.

I remember walking by the store in the '50s when the ground floor display windows were covered with transparent orange colored shades to protect the furniture from fading. Today the original building has been replaced by the five-story Union County One-Stop Career Center.

Nearby stores in the 1950s included Krasner's gift shop, Dan's Camera, Newman's five and ten cent store, Jennie Klein's hat shop and Swede's deli, owned by Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Dan's Camera on Elizabeth Avenue 1966

Dan Goldfarb owned Dan's Camera for more than 50 years. It was at 913 Elizabeth Ave. near Reid St. Dan provided great service and advice for all things photographic. I last saw him in the 1970s when I bought a Minolta 110 compact camera there. Dan later moved to a location on Elizabeth Ave. across from Bella Palermo's bakery. He died in 2017 at age 92.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Olympia Square on Elizabeth Ave.

Olympia Square, at the intersection of Elizabeth Avenue with South St. and Second Ave., was erected in 1900 to commemorate the American defeat of the Spanish fleet in Manila in 1898. The inscription reads:

"THIS GUN WAS TAKEN FROM THE SPANISH CRUISER CASTILLA AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SPANISH FLEET IN MANILA BAY BY THE AMERICAN FLEET, MAY 1, 1898."

Mayor Mack authorized the installation which cost \$525. The property was donated to the city earlier. Old photos show a pile of cannonballs but they have since been removed. We watched many parades from this vantage point. Patriotic parades marched down the Avenue celebrating V-E and V-J Days in 1945. The piles of cannonballs have disappeared and the public restrooms under the cannon were closed about 1960.

The store on the right of the 1907 photo above was the Bender meat business. John C. Bender came from Germany in 1867. He moved to Elizabeth in 1869, setting up a retail butcher shop at 864 Elizabeth Ave. at the corner of South St. In 1891 he moved to Roselle Park where he owned a hotel. He promoted the widening of

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Westfield Ave. and the establishment of a trolley line between Elizabeth and Plainfield. Bender was active in civic affairs, serving on the Borough Council until his retirement in 1917. He died in 1929 at age 80. His former store on Elizabeth Ave. remains a meat market today, called the Carniceria Mundo Hispano.



Engine Company No. 3 on Centre St.

Washington Engine Co. 3 was organized in 1841 and located on Prospect St. near Elizabeth Ave. It later moved to this distinctive building at 8 Centre St. near Elizabeth Ave. In 1915, Company 3 moved to a larger building at 731-735 New Point Road. By 1922 the Centre St. building was converted into a Police Dept. substation. The building has since been replaced by a large commercial building.



Ornate Building at 835 Elizabeth Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This three-story building, with a decorative facade and sculptured brackets under the eave, is at 835 Elizabeth Ave., just east of Smith St. and opposite Centre St. Barnet Cohen operated a jewelry store there for many years.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

beginning in 1888. He died in 1952. Ex-Freeholder Joseph Nolte lived in this building when he came down with smallpox during the city's epidemic of 1893.

Ilg's Men's Shop was nearby at 861 Elizabeth Avenue. John C. Ilg carried a fine line of men's clothing from at least 1921 to 1965 or later. Ilg was active with the Elizabeth merchants association and proposed a city parking authority to improve parking for shoppers. This led to the construction of the parking lot at the corner of the Avenue and Reid St. about 1955.



Left: Elizabeth Ave. View West from Union Square Right: Mary Harris "Mother" Jones

This is a rare 1909 view of Elizabeth Ave. looking west from the Minute Man monument. Note the trolley marked Third St. Each store had an awning back then. A popular meeting place in the late 19th century was Washington Hall, located at 843 Elizabeth Ave., the third building from the right. This was the site of a fiery speech in 1903 by Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1837 – 1930), a prominent American labor organizer, who cofounded the Industrial Workers of the World. Mother Jones and her group of 30 textile workers marched to Washington Hall where they were guests of the local Socialistic Party, of which Otto Steinke was president. Jones and her "army" stayed in Elizabeth two days, parading for the benefit of the employees of the Singer factory. Washington Hall was replaced by the Royal theater around 1919.

The 1919 City Directory lists the shops, starting with the building on the far right, as W. Grossman bakery, R. Pallatschek dry goods, Royal theater, and Sing Lee laundry. Across Smith St., the 3-story red brick building housed the Atlantic Beef. Co., a meat market. In the early 1950s I think it was the Great Bear supermarket, whose slogan was "the price crusher". The Royal theater, where we enjoyed war movies, westerns, and horror flicks along with a newsreel and two cartoons, all for 35 cents, was converted to a meat market in 1955. Today the site is a vacant lot.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



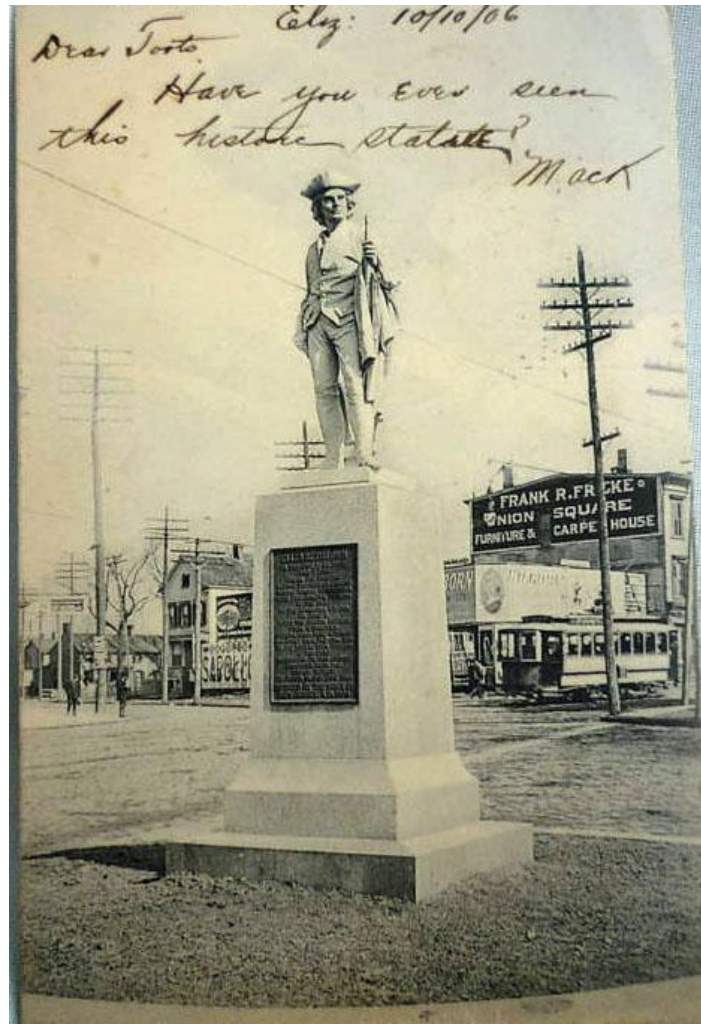
Former Dietrich's Bakery on Smith St.

This building at 14 Smith St. was the location of one of the iconic bakeries of Elizabeth, Dietrich's. William Dietrich was born in 1911 and went to St. Michael's school. The 1940 census indicated he and his wife Eleanor lived at 576 Adams Ave. and that he was a baker. They had a daughter Carole Anne.

Dietrich's was a favorite stop for all kinds of baked goods, but I especially liked the jelly donuts, crumb buns and soft rolls. My aunt Millie Fonseca, who lived nearby on South St., worked there in the 1950s-1960s. Mr. Dietrich died in 1982.

The building itself dates to at least 1889, when it was a Catholic school, perhaps associated with the nearby St. Michael's Church. By 1903 it was being used as the temporary church of St. Anthony's parish, which later built a stone church at Centre St. and Third Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



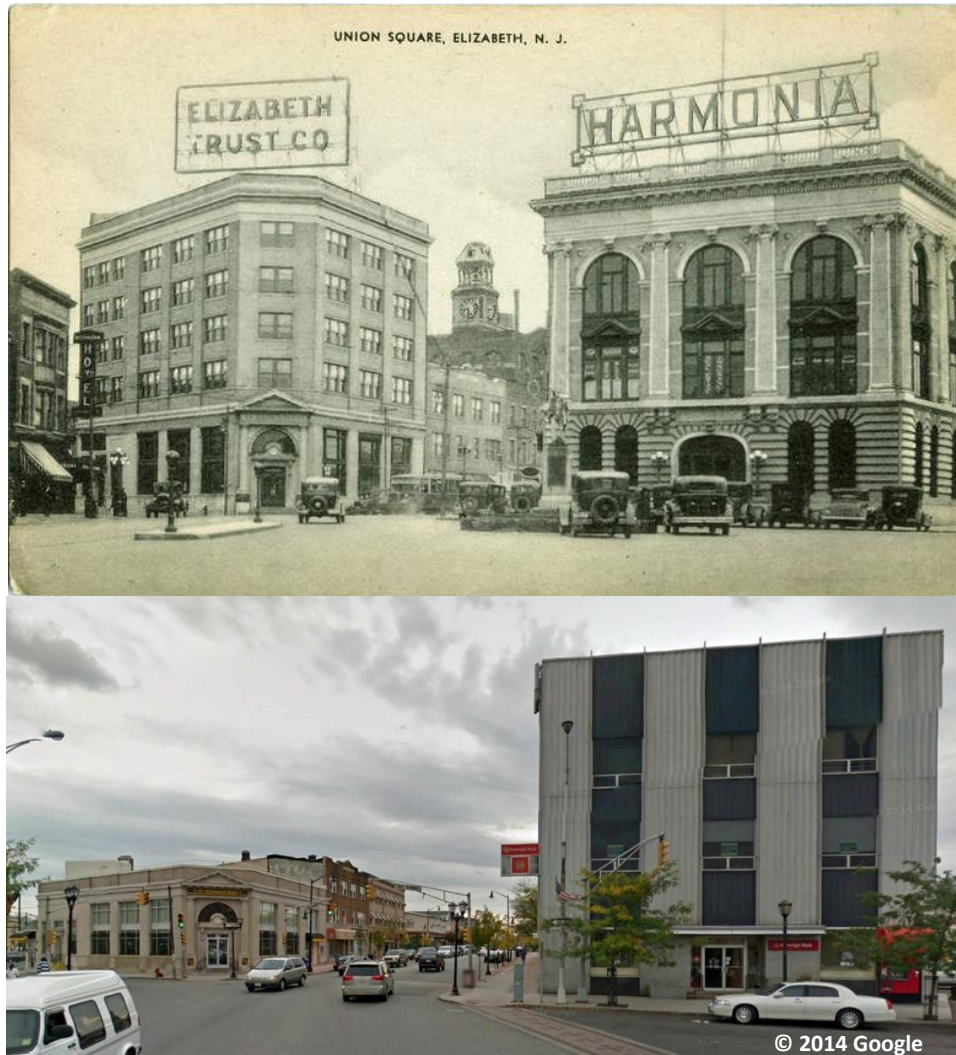
Minute Man Monument at Union Square

This 1906 postcard is one of the earliest photos of the Minute Man statue at Union Square. The monument was unveiled on June 8, 1905, on the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Elizabethtown which it commemorates. The inscription reads:

"ELIZABETHTOWN: On this spot, at daybreak, June 7, 1780, began the fighting against the British forces moving toward Springfield. Here fell General Stirling at the head of the advancing column. On June 8th, after the British retreat from Springfield, General Hand here attacked and drove back the 27th Regiment to the British main position at the Point. Skirmishing on the ground continued until the British retreat to Staten Island June 23rd. Erected by the State of New Jersey, A. D. 1905."

The building behind the statue advertises the Fricke Furniture store which opened in 1906 at 921-923 Elizabeth Ave. to the west of Union Square.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Union Square Then and Now

The top photo of Union Square dates to about 1920. Harmonia Bank was chartered in 1851 and the building on the right was erected in 1908. The clock tower in the center was atop the Rising Sun Brewery at 7th and Marshall Streets.

The Elizabeth Trust Co. building on the left was originally a two-story structure with four additional floors added later. In 1923 it also housed the Young Men's Christian Association College, described as "a technical college to prepare Christian men for physical education". Lawyer Peter Olde had an office there in 1927. The New York Community Bank started a branch there in 1931. In 1949 one of the tenants was the Roemer House of Children's Books. The Union County Trust Company also had a branch there for many years. This building was recently renovated with the removal of the four upper stories, restoring it to its original design. Today it is the Garden State Community Bank.

The classic architecture of the Harmonia Savings Bank was eliminated in a dull remodeling of the building in the 1960s. Today it is the Sovereign Bank.

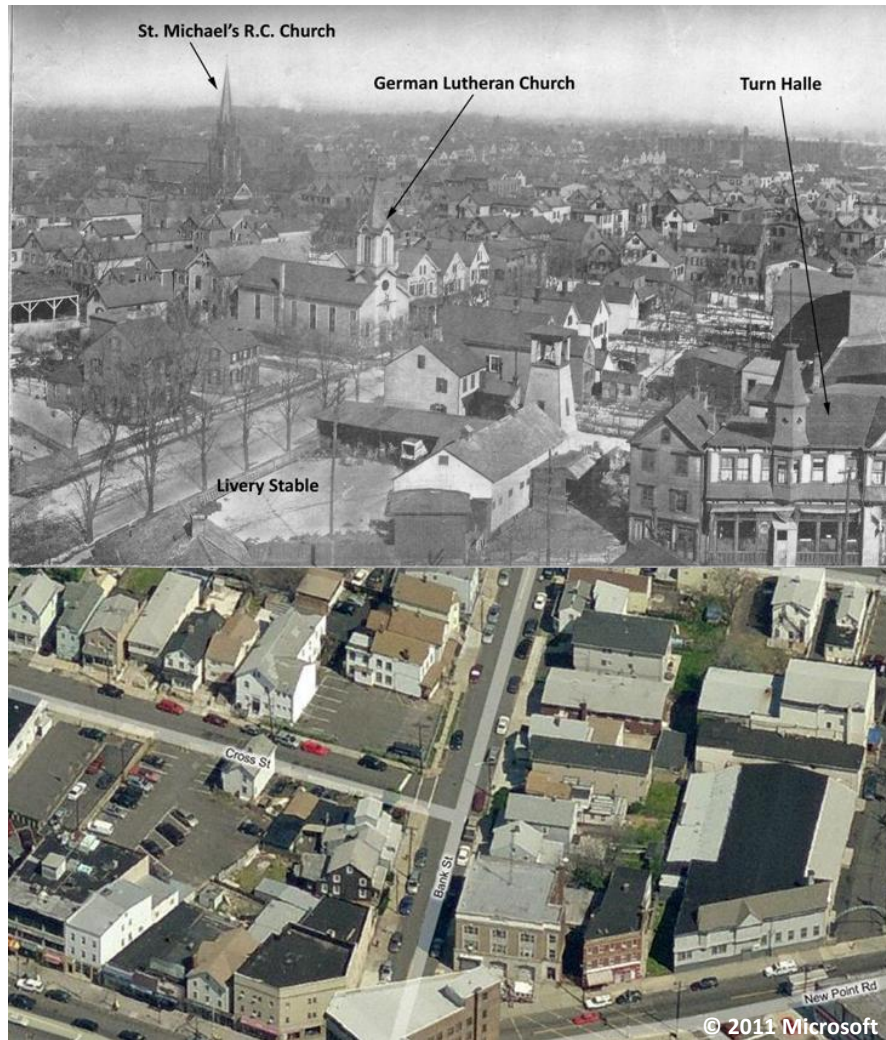
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Broeker Saloon and Union Square Hotel

Many of the buildings erected on Elizabeth Avenue in the 19th century are still in use today as commercial or residential premises. Ewald Broeker operated a saloon for many years in his Union Square Hotel at 801 Elizabeth Ave. He also distributed liquor from a three-story building at the corner of Elizabeth Ave. and Seventh St. Nine Elizabeth saloons were raided in 1920 by Prohibition agents who seized \$15,000 of liquor. Broeker's saloon was included in the raid. The nearby Rising Sun Brewery was raided several times during the course of Prohibition 1920-1933.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Union Square Aerial View

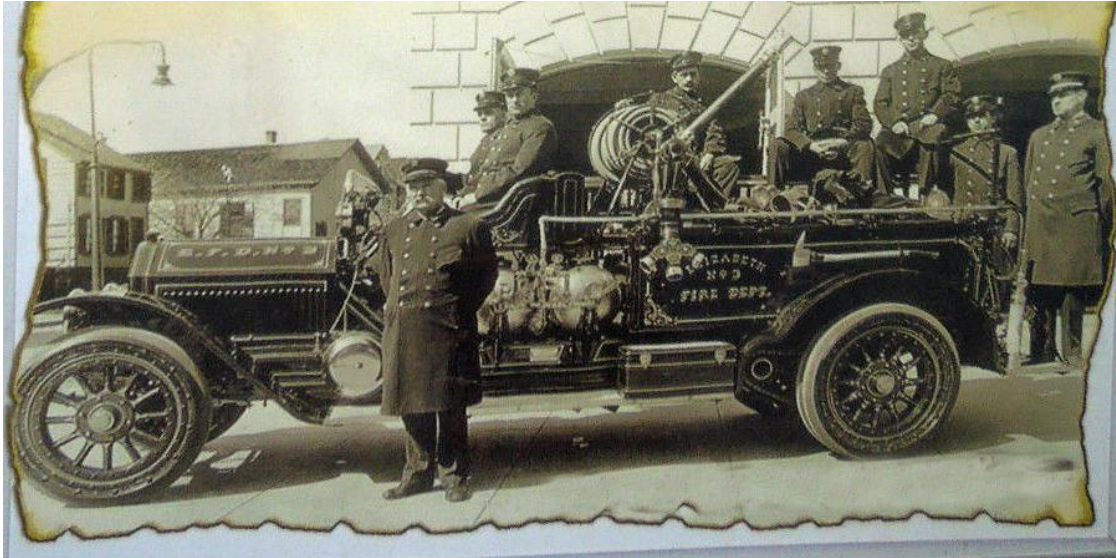
The top photo is a 1907 aerial view of Elizabeth, looking northwest, likely taken from the top of the Rising Sun Brewery at Seventh and Marshall Streets. The German Lutheran Church was erected at the corner of Cross and Port (now Bank) Streets in 1859. The church later moved to a larger building at 918 East Jersey St., opposite Elizabeth General Hospital, which became St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The old church was demolished years ago.

German Catholics formed a congregation in 1849 and held services in the Peters' Building at Union Square. A church was built on Smith St. in 1853. A new and larger church was erected in 1872 at Smith and East Jersey Streets, called St. Michael's. A school was added in 1889. Today the church is known as Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish, formed when Holy Rosary Church was closed. The Holy Rosary and St. Michael schools have also been closed.

The large building in the lower right corner of the 1907 photo was Turn Halle, owned by Reinhard Schwarze, a German social/athletic hall located at 725 High St. (now called New Point Road). It later became the home of the Elizabeth Turners, a gymnastic organization. This building still exists today, but the steeple has been removed. Recent occupants included an apparel manufacturer. The New Point Road fire station was located at the site of the old livery stable.

The German churches, meeting halls and businesses in the Union Square area reflected the prominent role German immigrants had in the development of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Fire Truck at New Point Road Fire Station

Firemen pose with their new motorized fire fighting truck in this ca. 1920 photo. It was taken in front of the New Point Road fire station that was built in 1915 at 731-735 New Point Road. Elizabeth Fire Chief August Gerstung might be standing in front of the truck. This station was demolished in 2012.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Arbiter Turner Association Hall on Elizabeth Ave.

This building was once the location of the Arbiter Turner Association Hall, built at 709 Elizabeth Ave. in 1888 by Charles Reinhardt. The original building was a two-story wood frame structure, later replaced by the three-story brick building. The Arbiter Turner Association was established by German workingmen as a social, athletic and instructive organization. Events at the hall included music, singing and speeches.

Turner Hall was the site of the 25th anniversary of Local 9 of the Metal Polishers' Union, held on December 28, 1911. Five hundred members and their guest attended the dinner at which the top photo was taken for the Elizabeth Daily Journal article published the next day. The entertainment consisted of an orchestra, vaudeville acts and dancing until 6AM the following morning.

The building became known as Columbia Hall by 1919 and it was still used for social events and labor union meetings. The city's Columbia Military Band held concerts and balls there. Nearby at 707 Elizabeth Ave. was the Electric Theatre. This was a small nickelodeon that showed films typically 15-20 minutes in length.

In the 1950s the building was occupied by Leo's clothing store for men and boys. We shopped there as kids for our "dungarees". The salesman always asked if you needed socks before you left the store.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Young People's Socialist League of Elizabeth 1917. Photo Credit Leslie Keiser.

According to Leslie Keiser, "this 1917 photo shows the members of the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL) of Elizabeth, N.J. The cards they are holding represent the various wards in the city. I believe the picture was taken at 635 Elizabeth Ave., maybe at one of their monthly Tuesday meetings."

The Socialist Party was very active in Elizabeth in the early 1900s. In the February 1912 issue of *The American Anti-Socialist*, the editor said "...the members of the Socialist Party of Elizabeth constitute the finest and fairest group of agitators that we have ever met". Apparently a debate had been held on Trusts in Elizabeth at which the Socialist Party demonstrated peaceably.

The 1919 City Directory lists the Socialist Party of Union County at Columbia Hall, 635 Elizabeth Ave., across from the Harmonia Bank. Progress Hall, at 635 Elizabeth Ave., was also the address of the Workingmen's Singing Society.

I thank Leslie Keiser for finding this photo and contributing valuable information.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bella Palermo Bakery on Elizabeth Ave. 2010 Photo of R.J. Baptista.

The Bella Palermo bakery has been making Italian cookies, pastries and breads since the 1930s. I stopped there during a visit to Elizabeth in 2010 and enjoyed the pignoli cookies. The new owners are Portuguese. Most of the memorable bakeries in the city have closed including Petrillo's, Brown's, Zimmerman's, Dietrich's and Sun Rise.



Phillip Boos Butcher Shop on Elizabeth Ave.

Martha Boos is believed to be standing in the doorway of her husband Phillip's butcher shop in this early 1900s photo. The 1919 City Directory listed 109 butcher shops in the city in the days before supermarkets.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Phillip Boos, born in Germany in 1865, had his butcher shop and residence at 547 Elizabeth Ave. from at least 1907 to 1926 or later. His son Charles Edward Boos also was a butcher."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Shoe Repair Business on Elizabeth Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

A boot sign remains on this commercial building at 402-404 Elizabeth Ave. near Fourth St. The 1919 City Directory listed the Felix Marx delicatessen and Joseph Capone shoe repair business here. Arnold Samuelsen: "The shoe repair shop of Joseph Capone (1886-) was here from about 1910 to 1959 or later. He and his wife Margaret also lived there with a family of at least six children." More recently, the building housed an appliance repair store.



Elizabeth Ave. Station of Central Railroad of New Jersey

The Elizabeth Avenue railroad station was located along Caspian St. between First and Second Avenues. It was built about 1938 when the Central Railroad line was raised above grade level to avoid pedestrian fatalities. The line was known as the New York and Long Branch. In addition to servicing these cities, the line connected at

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Bayway with the Sound Shore Railroad, also known as the Chemical Coast line. This line serviced the refineries, chemical plants, and metal works along the Arthur Kill between Carteret and Elizabeth, transporting thousands of workers daily in the pre-automotive era. These plants included DuPont, General Aniline, and American Cyanamid in Tremley Point.

Passenger service ended in 1960 but the station was not demolished until the 1980s. Most of the Tremley Point chemical plants have been closed and demolished.



Elizabeth Ave. View to CRR Overpass

The top photo was taken in 1938 during the repaving of Elizabeth Ave. after the elevation of the CRR tracks. The store on the left sold Goodrich Silverton tires. The building with the sidewalk awning was the Gorny & Gorny funeral home. The four-story building on Fourth St. was demolished to make way for the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950. Today a Sovereign Bank and 7-Eleven store are on the left side.



Liberty Square at First and Elizabeth Avenues

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Liberty Square monument honoring Mayor William A. Mack was erected in 1902, just a year after his death. Mack was born at Glen Gardner, New Jersey in 1856, and was once a telegraph operator. Later he studied medicine and graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1878. He began a practice in Elizabeth and was elected city physician in 1880, holding that office for several years. At the time of his death he was serving his second term as mayor of the city.



Former Liberty Square Library Branch on Elizabeth Ave.

The Liberty Square Library was constructed in 1912, the same year the main library on Broad St. was built, with funds from the Carnegie Foundation. The architect was C. Godfrey Poggi. Behind the iron fence on the left is the Boundary Stone, probably the oldest landmark in Elizabeth. It marked the lands of Richard Townley and Benjamin Price, whose initials appear on either side of the stone. The date 1694 is chiseled on the top of the stone.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Battleship "Maine" Monument in Jackson Park ca. 1900. Today's Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The recovered shell from the Battleship Maine has the inscription "Erected by the City of Elizabeth in memory of the sailors who lost their lives on the Battleship 'Maine' in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, one of whom, Charles F. J. Fadde, was a native of this City." The monument was erected at Jackson Park around 1900. Fadde's father was John H. Fadde who lived at 226 Franklin St.

The seated man with the straw hat in the center of the photo is believed to be Mayor William A Mack. Mayor Mack also authorized the monument erected in 1900 at Olympia Square on Elizabeth Ave. Mayor Mack died in 1901.

The monument was restored and rededicated in 2012.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Distinguished Service Cross Awarded to Residents Who Served in World War I

Elizabeth residents answered the call of duty in World War I in large numbers. A total of 120 men were killed in the conflict. Many of the servicemen were awarded medals for their bravery, including several who received the Distinguished Service Cross. Government archives document their stories:

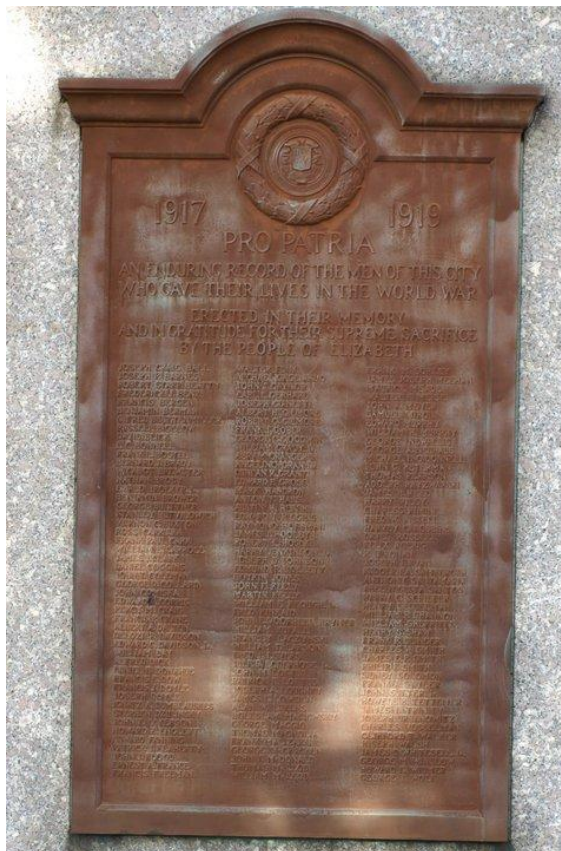
- 1) Joseph S. Aldridge, Jr., private, first class, Company B, 311th Infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action near Vleville-en-Haye, France, September 24-25, 1918. On the night of September 24, 1918, Pvt. Aldridge repeatedly carried messages between his company and battalion headquarters through a heavy barrage. He also took the place of a wounded litter bearer and assisted in bringing in wounded under shell fire. Residence at enlistment: 424 Cherry Street.
- 2) Joseph H. Fahey, sergeant, Company B, 311th Infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action near Vleville-en-Haye, France, September 26, 1918. He made three attempts to silence several machine guns which had held up his platoon. He retired only after he had been wounded and his companions killed or wounded. Residence at enlistment: 136 Orchard Street.
- 3) William M. Menge, private, first class, Medical Detachment, 23d Infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action near St. Etienne-a-Arnes, France, October 3-9, 1918. Throughout the engagement he tended the wounded under shell fire and machine-gun fire, continuing with his work after two of his assistants had been killed and one wounded. Residence at enlistment: 741 Livingston Street.
- 4) Harry Osborne, corporal, Company F, 9th Infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action near Medeah Farm, France, October 3, 1918. Corpl. Osborne, together with four other men, charged a machine-gun nest containing three heavy machine guns, capturing the three guns and 20 prisoners. Residence at enlistment: 1177 Washington Street.
- 5) Frederick A. Woodward, private, Battery E, 42d Artillery, Coast Artillery Corps. For extraordinary heroism in action near Suippes, Marne, France, July 14-15, 1918. Acting as a runner during an engagement, he kept up his work throughout the bombardment. On the trip he was wounded by a bursting shell, but succeeded in carrying a very important message to his battery commander. Residence at enlistment: 1015 Olive Street.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

6) Ralph Hawkins, corporal, African-American member of the 369th Infantry, the old 15th New York Regiment of black troops, received the Croix de Guerre for leading one hundred of his comrades in an assault that recaptured a French village from the Germans during the closing days of the war. Many German prisoners were taken and the citation was later conferred by General Pershing. Hawkins was born in Elizabeth, a son of Fred Hawkins, and the grandson of C. R. H. Hawkins, a Civil War veteran and former newspaper man. The family lived on High street while residents of Elizabeth.

7) John Van Hart, sergeant, Company O, 113th Infantry. He lived at 612 Elizabeth Ave. when he enlisted in the Army during World War I. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross "For extraordinary heroism in action near Molleville Farm, France, October 10-25, 1918. Attached to the battalion scouts, he repeatedly went out on dangerous patrols, secured valuable information, assisted in first-aid work, carried litters, rations, and water, and voluntarily made numerous trips through artillery and machine-gun fire with important messages." After the war he continued to reside at this address and worked for the Singer Manufacturing Co.

On a monument in the center of Scott Park, over the spot formerly occupied by a fountain, is a tablet constructed by Tiffany & Co., bearing the names of the Elizabeth men who died in World War I. It was unveiled on July 4, 1920.



World War I Monument in Scott Park. 2010 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

A monument to Elizabeth residents killed in all wars, including World War II and the Korean War, was erected in Scott Park in the 1950s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



War Monument In Scott Park. Photo of 2010 Veterans Day Ceremony Courtesy of Darren Bryden.



Former World War II Memorial on Dowd Ave. at Schiller St.

At the foot of Schiller St. and Dowd Avenue was a World War II memorial marked "Dedicated to the Schiller Street Boys". This was a vertical wooden plaque listing the name of the soldiers. Perhaps one or more of the soldiers were killed in action. Today the memorial area is abandoned with no sign of the commemorative plaque.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Steeb Pharmacy on Elizabeth Ave. at Third St.

Edward Steeb's Pharmacy was located at 263 Elizabeth Ave. in 1889. It was still operating in 1919. The building is a beauty salon today.



Office and Residence of Louis Quien, Architect, on Elizabeth Ave.

The modest home of architect Louis Quien at 251 Elizabeth Ave. is seen in the 1889 photo on the left and as it looks today. Quien designed commercial buildings and schools including the William Penn School No. 11. The school was located at the corner of Erie St. and Merritt Ave. in the Frog Hollow neighborhood, but has been demolished.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Baltic St. Bridge ca. 1916

In 1902 citizens petitioned the City Council for a bridge over the Elizabeth River at Baltic Street. This would link Baltic St. to Trenton Avenue and improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic between the east and west sides of the city. Workers would have easier access to the Stephenson Trolley Car Works and Standard Oil Refinery in Bayway. But the bridge was not erected until 1916. This vintage photo shows the structure was a Strauss bascule bridge. This type of bridge has a huge cement block suspended over the road as a counterweight when the bridge opens. A lift bridge of the Strauss type was erected at South First Street about 1907.

Baltic Street was eliminated by the construction of the New Jersey Turnpike, completed in 1952. The bridge was scrapped in 1954.



Bridge at South Front St. 2010 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Another Strauss bridge was built at South Front Street in 1921. Each of the movable bridges had a bridge tender on duty. In 1919 the bridge tender here was John W. Van Pelt. These bridges allowed pleasure boats and barges carrying oil, trap rock and lumber to navigate up the river from the Arthur Kill.

The South Front Street bridge is the last operable bridge in the city. It is considered a historic landmark because of the unique design and counterweight. The bridge is currently undergoing repair.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Central Railroad Bridge over Elizabeth River 1912

The Central Railroad bridge over the Elizabeth River was constructed in 1912. The bridge is a Scherzer-type, single-leaf bascule bridge that carried two tracks of the Perth Amboy and Elizabeth Branch. The span is raised by the release of an overhead counterweight at one end, rolling the span backward along track guides on each side. The structure pivots vertically around a trunion at the center of gravity. The bridge, which remains today, was an important development in the history of American bridge engineering.

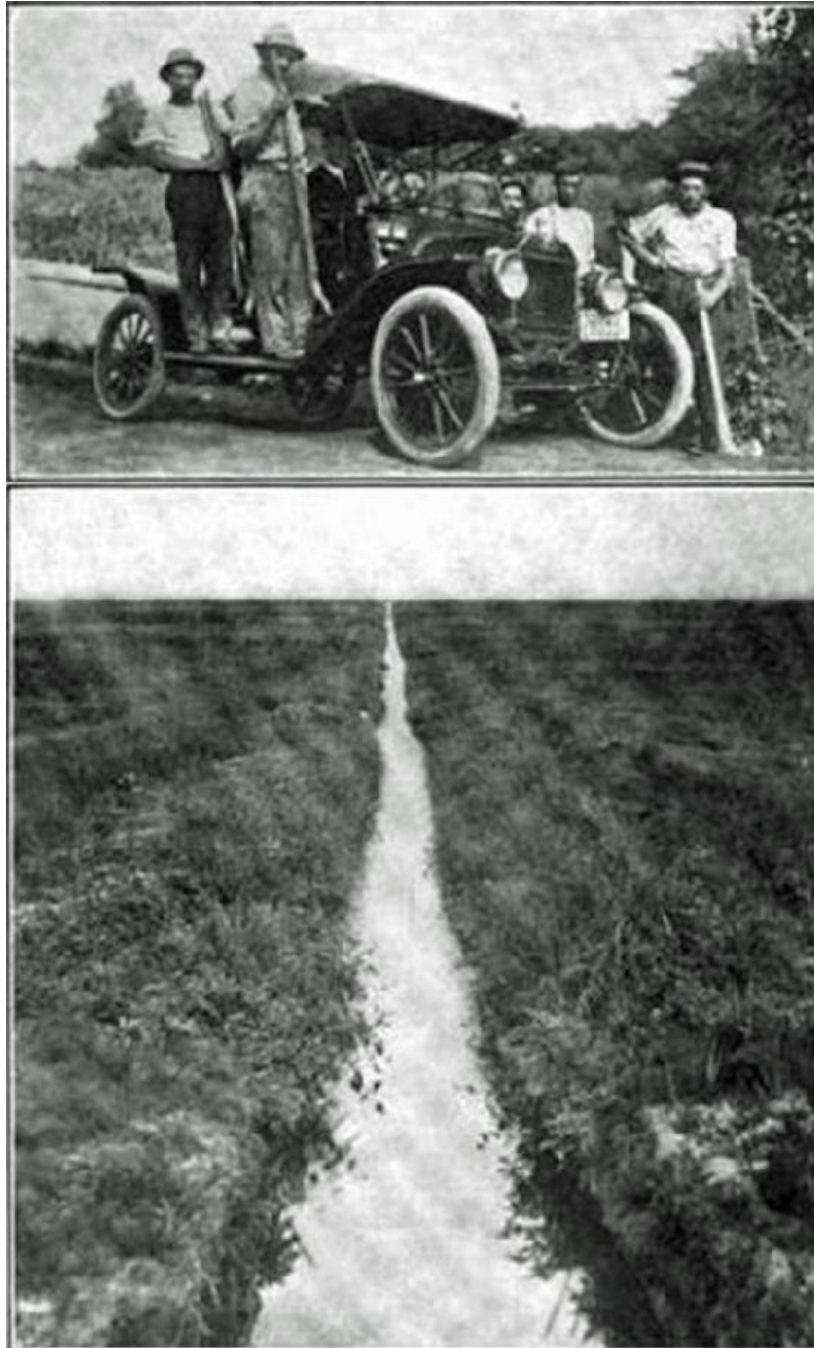


Russo Auto Wreckers on South Front St. 1998 Photo by R.J. Baptista.

Junk yards were like gold mines when we were kids in the early 1950s. We combed them for car ornaments to strap to our bikes and for parts to build go-carts. And we could earn pocket money selling scrap metal we collected along the curbs on garbage days.

According to Jeffrey Russo, the Russo auto wreckers business was started on Spencer St. in the 1940s, operated on First St. (1949-1957) and then moved to South Front St. The last day of business was March 25, 1989.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Mosquito Control Measures in Elizabeth ca. 1913

Mosquitoes have plagued Elizabeth residents since the first settlers arrived in 1664. Encounters with the pests were reported by travelers in 1679, 1748 and 1818:

"And then, a little later, in telling of an expedition along Staten Island and in the neighborhood of Elizabethtown: 'Nowhere in the country had we been so pestered with mosquitoes as we were on this road.' 'The people hereabouts', wrote another wanderer, an able scientist, in this region, 'are said to be troubled in summer with immense swarms of gnats or mosquitoes, which sting them and their cattle. This was ascribed to the long, swampy meadows, on which these insects deposit their eggs.' "(F.J. Urquhart, A History of the City of Newark New Jersey, 1913)

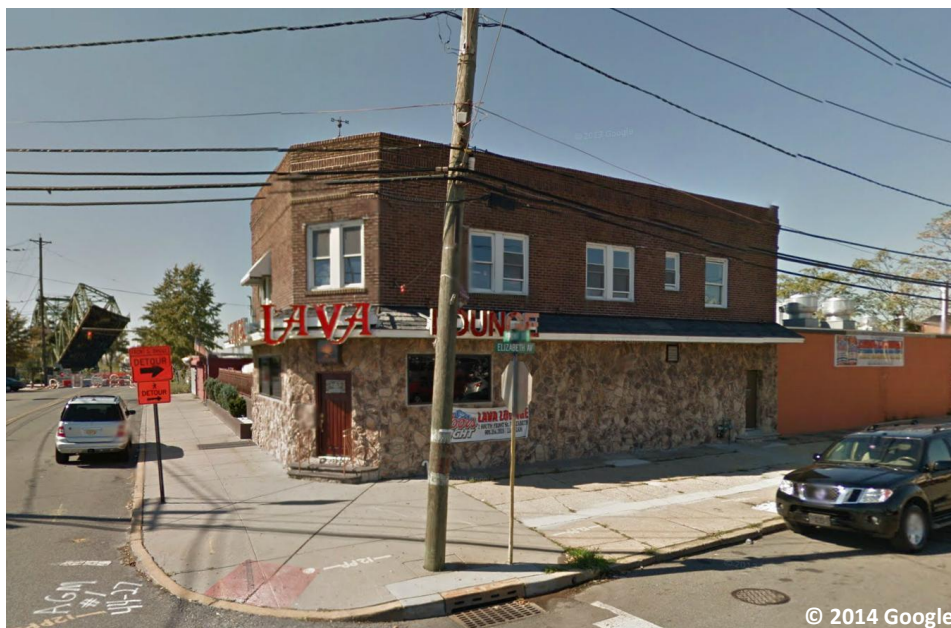
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

"Being situated in the neighbourhood of salt marshes, in the evening I found the Musquitoes, a sort of gnat, troublesome; they biting my hands and face in spite of precaution." (J. Palmer, Journal of Travels in the United States of North America and in Lower Canada, 1818.

In 1902 a dairy farmer in Tremley (Linden) spent thousands of dollars on a herd of milk cows. Part of the 100 acre farm was made into artificial ponds filled with millions of gallons of water from artesian wells. The ponds were stocked with several varieties of fish. That summer hordes of mosquitoes attacked the cattle, killing many of them, especially the calves. The dairy farm went out of business and the land was put up for sale.

But by the summer of 1913, the Union County Mosquito Extermination Commission was winning the war against the pests. The workers in the top photo represented one of the crews making 2,500 house to house inspections daily. They knocked over rain barrels and sprayed oil on pools of water to kill the larvae. Ditches were dug to drain woodland pools and carry tidewater off the acres of salt marsh meadows, cattle-fouled swamps were filled in and builders were forced to prevent accumulation of rainwater in excavations.

The bottom photo shows the installation of a mile long drainage ditch, four feet in width and depth, to which many smaller drains connected. The drainage effort reclaimed acres of salt marsh hay land and increased the yield per acre. Wagons could now be driven on firmer ground to harvest the hay, which was sold as fodder to local farmers raising cattle.



Former Red Jacket Hotel Site at Elizabeth Ave. and South Front St.

The corner of Elizabeth Ave. and South Front St. is the site of the Lava Lounge today. Going back to 1889 or earlier, the Red Jacket Hotel was here in a larger building. It was owned by John McAdams. By 1922 the hotel had been replaced with this 2-story building housing the saloon of Joseph Lacko.

Hotels and saloons did a thriving business with industrial workers in Elizabethport for years. Even during Prohibition, you could get a glass of real beer at some Elizabeth saloons, courtesy of illegal operations at the Rising Sun and Breidt breweries.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Helen Fern at Morris Fern's Meat Market on First St. (Photo Courtesy Vicki Schober). Right: Today's View

In the left photo taken in the mid-late 1920s, Helen Fern is standing in front of her husband Morris Fern's Meat Market. The store was located at 14 First St., the second building from the right in today's view. It was built in 1917 as a store and residence at a cost of \$5,000. Morris Fern was an immigrant from the Austria-Hungary area that later became Poland and is now western Ukraine.. His son Sam worked in the market as a young man and later operated the Sam Fern TV and Appliance store at this location.

Morris Fern also established Fern's Furniture Co. with stores in Elizabeth and Cranford. His cousin David Fern came from Poland just before World War I to live with his sister and her husband Morris Schaefer who had a grocery store at 10 First St., the building on the left of today's view. Schaefer's grocery was established in the early 1900s and was in business until the 1950s. David Fern worked as a teenager in the store and learned the retail grocery and butcher business. He later moved to Millburn to open his own grocery and meat market.

After World War II, David and several friends, all in the grocery business, established the Wakefern Food Corp. and the Shop-Rite supermarket chain. They first met in David's living room in Millburn, creating the Wakefern name from the first letters of the last names of partners Weiss, Aidekman, Kesselman and Eisenberg and the Fern name.

The first member of the Fern family to arrive here was Max Fern in the late 1890s. He intended to meet a friend and settle in New York. When the friend failed to show up, Max accepted a ride from a baker returning from New York with a wagon of flour. The baker was heading home to Elizabeth and took Max with him.

Max became a real estate developer with an office at 10 First St., the second building from the left. He was an early developer of Bayway, even naming Fern Place. The spurt in home construction was due to Standard Oil hiring thousands of workers after World War I.

I thank the Fern family for supplying the photograph and information about the family enterprises that helped Elizabeth grow.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Hand Grocery and Eagle Hotel at First and Marshall Streets

Luther T. Hand sold groceries and provisions from this store at the corner of First and Marshall Streets in 1889. He was postmaster of Elizabethport in 1863, earning \$517. He was also president of the Elizabethport Savings Bank, a small bank chartered in 1868.

In 1905 this building became the Eagle Hotel, owned by Frederick D. Schwitzgabel. He came to Elizabeth about 1882 and had previously operated a saloon at 73 Florida St. In addition to renting rooms, he sold wine, liquor and cigars at the Eagle Hotel. He died in 1932 at the age of 75. He was residing at 1079 Anna St. at the time.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Borkan's Department Store on First St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Noah Borkan built his department store building at 32 First St., between Marshall and Franklin Streets, in 1915 at a cost of \$5,000. In 1921 he received \$68.94 from the federal government to compensate for glass damage from the explosion of the Gillespie munitions plant. The Gillespie munitions plant in Morgan (Sayreville), New Jersey, exploded in 1918, killing 78 people. The blast damaged property for miles around.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Nathan Borkan and Son was a clothing store begun in 1908 or earlier; it closed some time after Borkan's death March 9, 1924. An advertisement for the store in the 1917 City Directory read: "Everything a woman or child wears. Full line of dry and fancy goods. Men's furnishings. Telephone 1872. 32 First St., Elizabeth."

"Nathan Borkan (1871-1924) was born in Austria and came to New York with parents and siblings in 1888. He and wife Eva Helfgott Borkan (1872-1954) and their only child Maurice (1896-1962) lived at 68 Marshall St. After Nathan's death, Eva and Maurice moved to the Weequahic section of Newark. Maurice became an oil-burner salesman for Joseph Toker Co., 727 Livingston St., Elizabeth. Eva and Maurice later moved to Columbus, Ohio."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Hilgendorf Shoe Store on First St. ca. 1900

This vintage photo shows the Hilgendorf shoe store at 34 First St. Arnold Samuelsen reported "By 1895 William Hilgendorff (1864-ca. 1929), who came from Germany to America in 1884, was selling shoes and boots at 34 First St., also his residence at that time. The others in the picture may be his wife Anna Ziermann Hilgendorff (1864-1947), one of his two sons -- Hugo Alfred (1887-1977) or William Robert (1890-1967) -- and daughter Gertrude (1892-), who died before 1910. The store was relocated to 88 First St. (by 1919). Hilgendorff Bros. shoes wound up at 1166 East Jersey St., with Hugo, of 39 Summit Rd., serving as president and William, of 917 Park Ave., being vice-president and treasurer. By 1959 William had retired and Hugo's son Hugo Jr. (1914-1991) had joined the business."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Engine Company No. 4 on First St. ca. 1920

The Fire Department's Red Jacket Engine Co. No. 4 was established at 42 First St., near Franklin St., in 1855. A Button Steamer was purchased in 1869 to replace a hand pumper. By 1893 the company had three engines and three horses. Two firemen were killed while fighting a fire at the nearby Cordage Works. Today a vacant lot is all that remains of this station.



Police Posing on Franklin St. ca. 1888

This vintage photo shows the Elizabeth police force assembled alongside the fire station at First and Franklin Streets. The police were in full uniform including white gloves so they were probably assembling for a parade on First St. and then up to Elizabeth Ave. to Broad St. Standing on the left in the front line of men is a man in a Civil War uniform, believed to be James Madison Drake. He was one of the most distinguished Civil War veterans in

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Elizabeth. Arnold Samuelsen: "In 1888 the police had a First Ward Station House at 38 First St., next to the fire station. Henry Fadde was keeper of the First Ward station. The only other substation was the Fourth Ward station at 22 South Broad St. Henry C. Austin was Chief of Police at the time."

The police were wearing a distinctive helmet known as "The Heller". It was patented in 1887 by C.J. Heller of Philadelphia, a hat manufacturer who also supplied them to the Newark police department. But the Heller hats fell out of favor when Mack Sennett began releasing his Keystone Cops films in 1912. These comedies depicted police, wearing a similar looking hat, as incompetent. Soon after, the Elizabeth Police Dept. issued modern looking hats to the force.



First St. near Franklin St.

The left photo shows the repaving of First St. near Franklin St. in 1949. The Ideal Pet Shop is on the left. The furniture store of Morris Saffran and Son is on the right at 65 First St. which dates to 1919 or earlier. Today's view is similar except the former Saffran building has been remodeled.



First St. View East from Fulton St. 1910

This vintage postcard is a view of First St. from Fulton St. The store on the left has Oppenheimer's on the awning, but the nature of the business is unknown. In 1919 the store was the Clarich & Benjamin clothing store. On the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

right was the saloon of Morris Stiglitz. Other businesses on this block included a barber shop, meat market, fish market, delicatessen, jewelry, hardware, laundry, stationer, grocery and phonograph dealer.



Fieldman Photography Studio on Fulton St.

Isidore Fieldman operated a photography studio in the early 1900s at 109 Fulton St. near First St., the building on the left side of the vintage photo. The man on the horse is unidentified and is wearing a uniform of a fraternal or military organization. Note the cobblestone street.

Fieldman was born in Russia about 1869 and came to this country in 1891. He was listed as a photographer in the 1900 through the 1930 U.S. Census. He and his wife Rose (born in Poland) spoke Yiddish, indicating that they were of the Jewish faith. Their children included Esther (born 1890), Milton (born 1901), Margaret (born 1901), Herman (born 1906), George (born 1914). Milton and Margaret were likely twins. Herman joined his father's photography business which expanded to studios in Newark and Jersey City.

Today's view shows Fieldman's Victorian style home at 111 Fulton St., next door to the former photo studio. The two-story brick faced building was apparently a religious facility more recently but is now for sale.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Staten Island Ferry ca. 1900

Ferry service between Elizabethport and Staten Island was started in 1762 by Adoniah Schuyler. The pier was at the foot of Elizabeth Ave. The Elizabethport and Staten Island Ferry Co. was established in 1851. In the early 1900s the pier was on Front St. between East Jersey and Fulton Streets. The ferry operated two single deck, turtle shaped boats.

The two-story Recreation Pier was just east of the Staten Island Ferry. In the early 1950s we would take an excursion boat to spend a fun day at Rye Beach and the Playland amusement park. It was a great way to escape the summer heat in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



CRR Station in Elizabethport

This 1930s photo is a view of the CRR station at Elizabethport. It was used heavily by workers at the nearby CRR maintenance shops and Singer Sewing Machine Co. This was also a transfer station for passengers going to/from Newark and the branches to the south. Note the old fashioned news stand. The Elizabethport station is long gone, but the staircases leading to the elevated platform remain on Trumbull St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First St. View Northeast from East Jersey St.

The top postcard dated 1909 is a view of First St. from East Jersey St. At the time First St. was a busy shopping district in the city with trolley service. On the left was the Elizabethport Banking Company established in 1889.

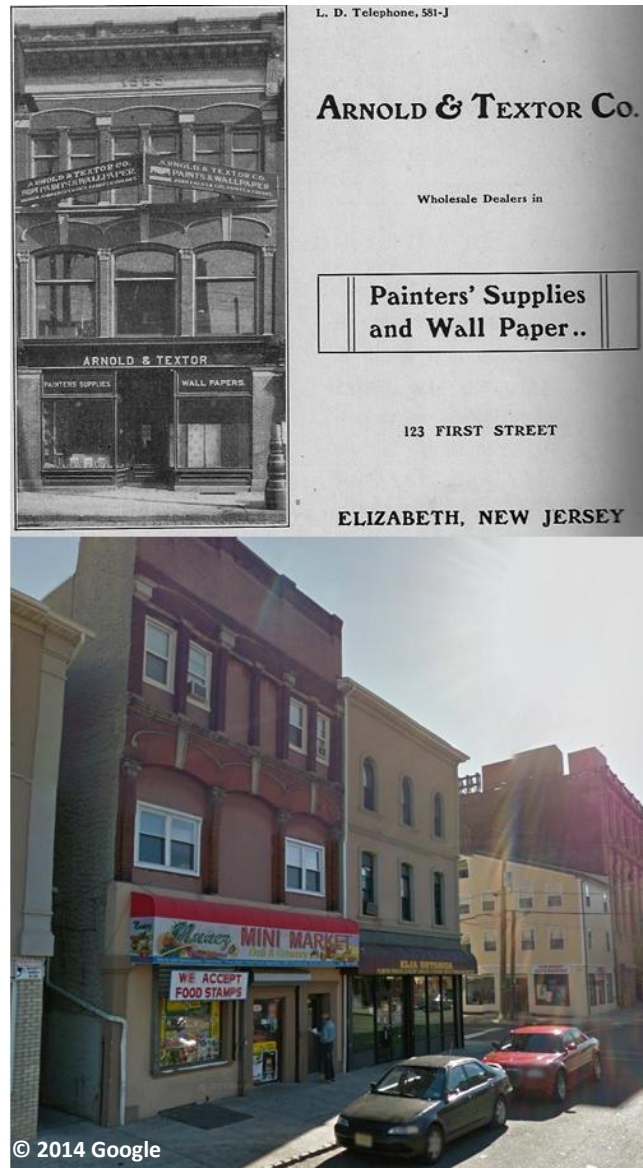


Staff of Elizabethport Banking Company

The architect of this distinctive building was Louis Quien. In 1900 the bank discovered that young clerk William Schreiber had swindled the bank of upwards of \$30,000. He was an orphan and lived on his annual salary of \$900 in a small house on Reid St. Schreiber went missing and was found two years later working on a banana farm in the Honduras. He had squandered the stolen money on high living and a woman friend. The building remains today and is a branch of the Bank of America.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The three-story red brick building on the right was the McManus Bros. furniture store, established by Walter McManus and his brother Joseph. The building replaced a wood frame structure destroyed by fire in 1896 along with virtually all the buildings and stores that lined the block between Livingston and East Jersey Streets. In 1918 McManus moved to a larger building on East Jersey St. to take advantage of the population growth in the northern and western parts of the city.

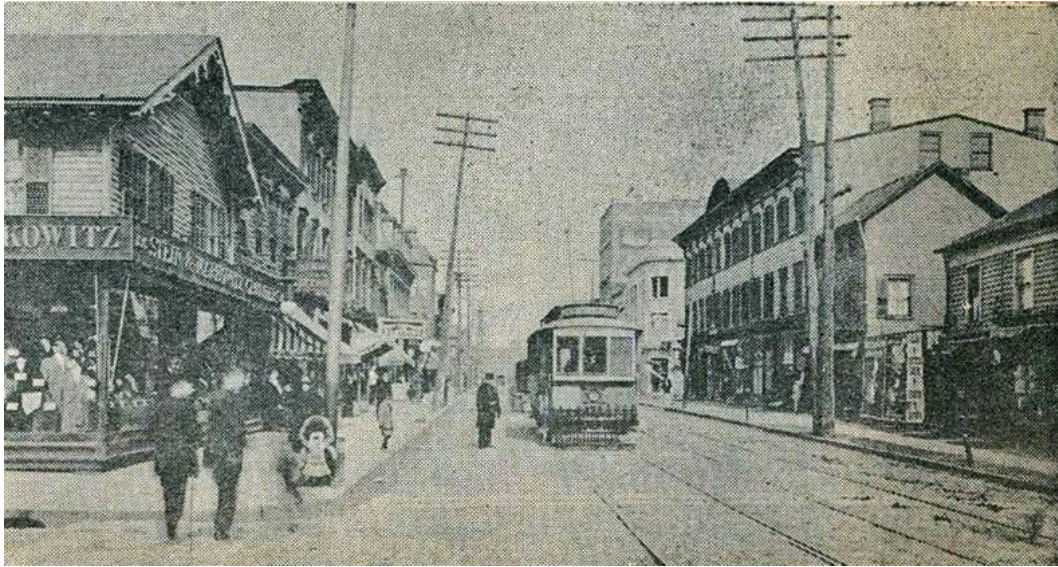


Arnold & Textor Paint Store on First St.

John P. Arnold learned the painting business in Elizabeth when he was sixteen years old. He established his first paint and wall paper store at 83 Livingston street. He went into partnership with Henry Textor to establish Arnold & Textor. The firm erected a three-story brick building at 123 First St. in 1905. A short time after moving to this building Arnold bought out his partner, forming J. P. Arnold & Co. In 1914, a fire damaged this building and the firm reopened in a store on Prince Street. The First St. building was repaired and used by The Bon Ton Hat Co. for hat manufacturing before moving to 35 South Spring St. in the 1930s.

Today the First St. building is used as a Hispanic grocery store, reflecting the neighborhood population.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First St. View East from Broadway

This 1910 photo is a view of First St. looking east from Broadway. At the time it was the city's main shopping thoroughfare. On the left was the men's clothing store Stein & Markowitz. It was established in 1898 when Joseph Stein and Abraham Markowitz came to Elizabeth from Spartanburg, South Carolina. They relocated to a larger store on Broad St. at Elizabeth Ave. in 1933.



Mack Building on First St. at South Park St.

The Mack Building stands idle today at 157 First St. But in the early 1900s it housed the Mack Furniture Co. Samuel Mack was president, Anthony Bator secretary and Andrew Baran treasurer. In 1919 the name was changed to the White Eagle Furniture Co. It was designed in a baroque style commonly used for banks and commercial buildings at the time. The building was demolished in 2016.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



M. Durning, Undertaker on First St. 1889

One of the earliest undertakers in Elizabethport was Michael Durning, born in Ireland in 1835. In 1868 he built a three-story building at 167-169 First St., corner of Court St., for his funeral and furniture business. He carried a selection of coffins and burial accessories. A brick stable housed hearses, wagons and horses. Durning also sold parlor, bedroom and kitchen furniture as was the custom of undertakers at the time. They were called "furnishing undertakers". Today the site is the location of the City of Elizabeth Miller Evans Logan Recreation Center.



Higgins Funeral Home on First St.

James J. Higgins (1870-1940) began his career in the funeral business by working at the Durning Funeral Home. When Michael Durning died in 1899, Higgins took over the business. By 1907 the Higgins Funeral Home was located in the three-story brick building that still stands at the corner of First and Court Streets. The business later moved to 414 Westminster Avenue and was run by his son Richard Higgins, before relocating to Westfield as the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home.

I thank Arnold Samuelson for providing information about the Higgins Funeral Home.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First St. View Northeast from Bond St.

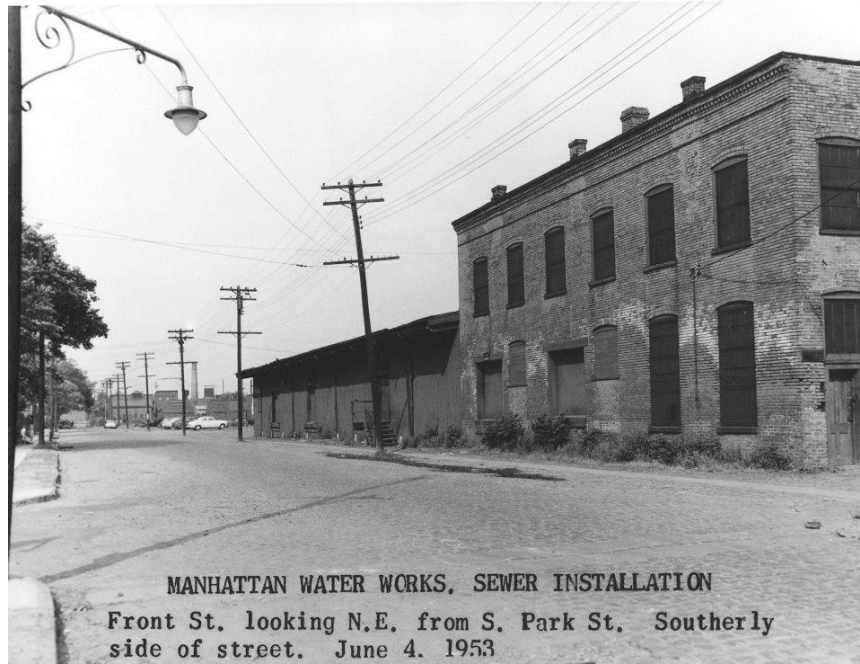
The changing appearance of Elizabethport is apparent in this view of First St. taken from the corner of Bond St. The abandoned building on the right, recently converted into an apartment residence, housed the grocery store of N. J. Krinzman and Sons in 1919. On the left are new homes recently built in the Port, which replaced the deteriorated public housing projects Pioneer Homes and Migliore Manor.



Union County Pickle Works on Livingston St. 1948

The Union County Pickle Works at 79 Livingston St. is seen abandoned in this 1948 photo. The business was established by Samuel Marenus in the 1920s in a building formerly used as a grocery warehouse. During a fire in the wooden buildings in 1929, police led twenty workers, five of them children, to safety. There were no injuries. The firm made and packed preserved pickles, chow chow, relishes and olives. Photos are from the City of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Front St. View Northeast from South Park St.

This 1953 photo is a view of Front St. from South Park St. A sewer line was being installed at the time. The building on the right was used for railroad storage. The smokestack and buildings in the background represent the Moore Bros. Machine Shop and Foundry which dates to the early 1900s. The City of Elizabeth acquired the idle brownfield property in 1991 for redevelopment. Today's view along Front St. shows the industry gone, replaced with new residential housing. Soccer fields replaced the old Moore Bros. property.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Board of Public Works, Eliz., N.J.
Contract 2 - Easterly Intercepting Sewer
Closeup view of construction on Front
St. from Broadway.



Front St. View Southwest from Broadway

The top photo is a view of Front St. from Broadway, taken in 1954 during construction of a sewer line. The building in the background with the conical roof was the Lenox Hotel in the early 1900s. Today's view shows a transformation of the once rundown street to new housing, with a modern marina and park on the left.

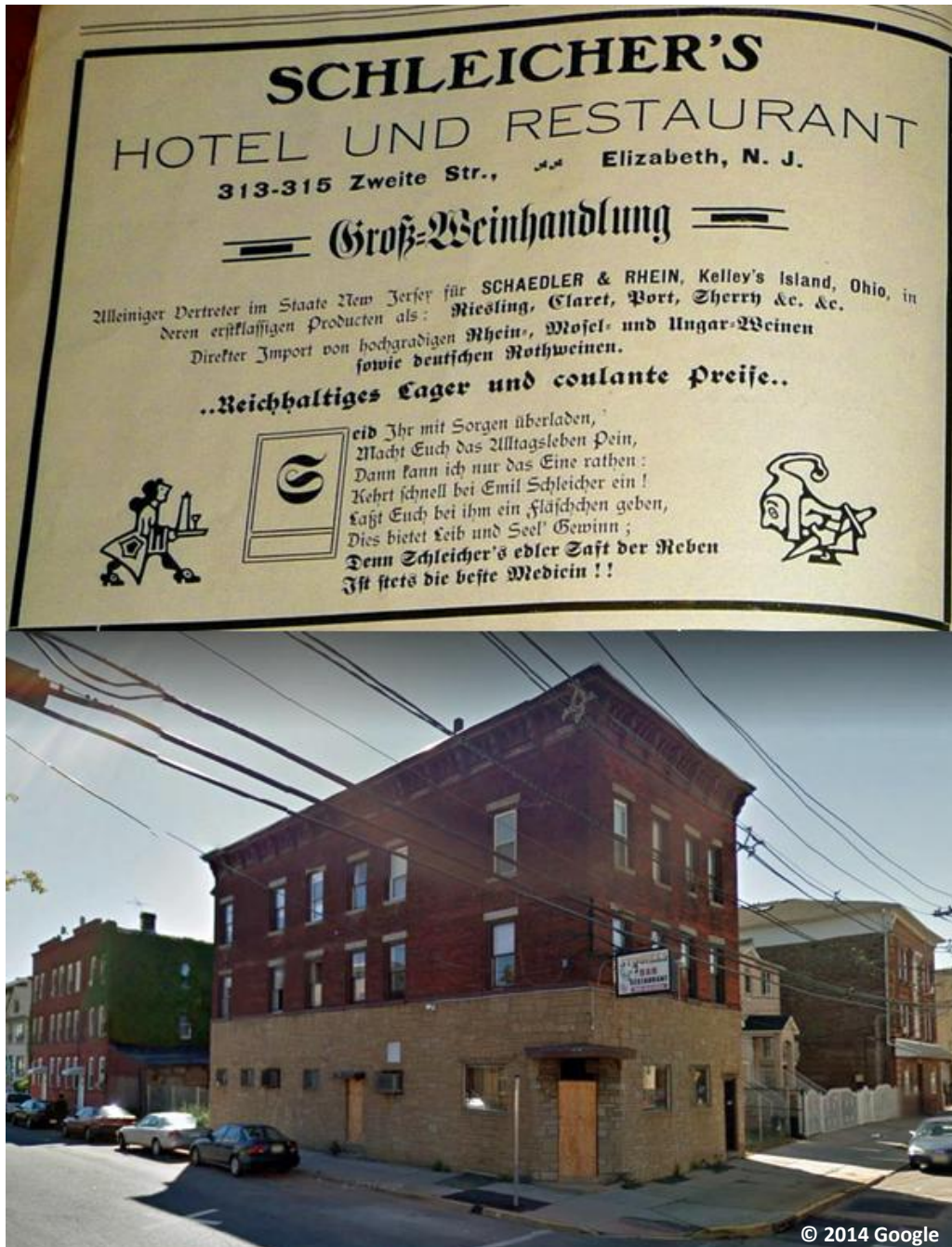
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Building at Marshall and Front Streets. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This three-story building is at 50 Marshall St, corner of Front St. Note the fancy arched windows and doorway on the ground floor and the pediments above windows on the upper floors. It was built 1889 or earlier, perhaps as a hotel to house workers in industries like the Crescent Iron Works across the street. There was a saloon on the ground floor. Crescent Iron Works later became Bethlehem Shipbuilding and then Bethlehem Steel.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Schleicher's Hotel on Second St.

This 1909 ad from a German American publication is for Schleicher's Hotel and Restaurant at 313-315 Second St. at Ripley Place. They had a good selection of domestic and imported wines. The hotel was probably a convenient place to stay for single or transient workers at the nearby Singer factory.

The building remains in use today although the bar is closed.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

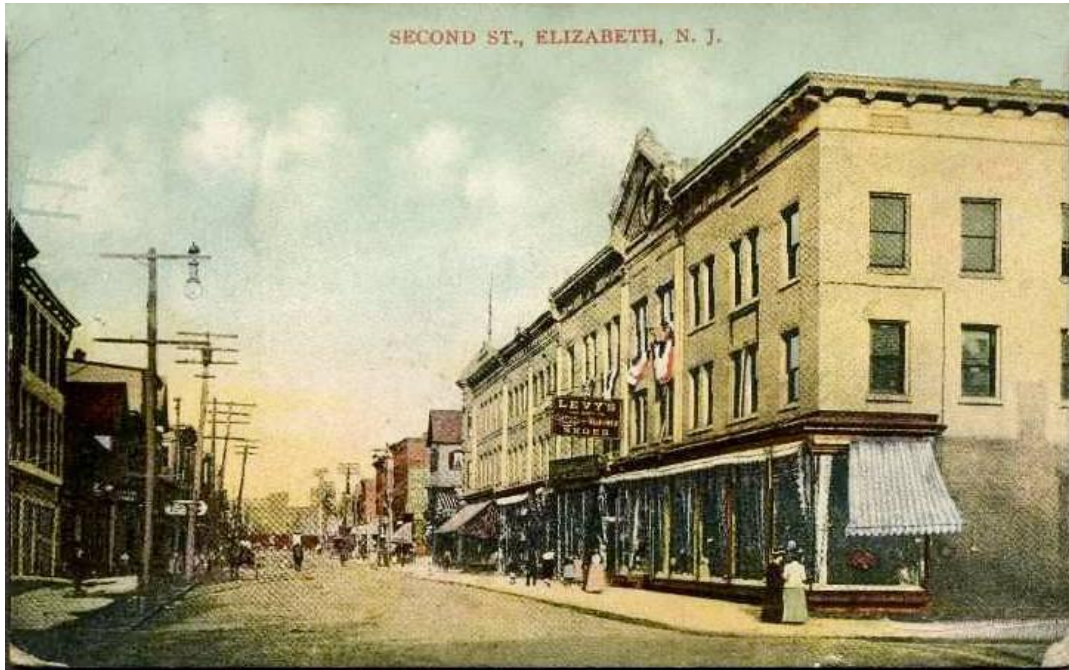


Former Stiner Funeral Home on Second St.

The Stiner Funeral Home was located in the early 1900s in this brick building at 62 Second St. at the corner of Fulton St. Jacob S. Stiner was both an undertaker and an upholsterer. It was common for undertakers back then to have a second business like furniture or home furnishings. Stiner became an undertaker around 1898 and married his wife Jane in 1902. They had no children. They lived at 200 Fulton St. in the residential part of this building.

About 1930, Stiner moved the funeral home and his residence to a large Victorian home at 97 West Grand St. at the corner of Cherry St.

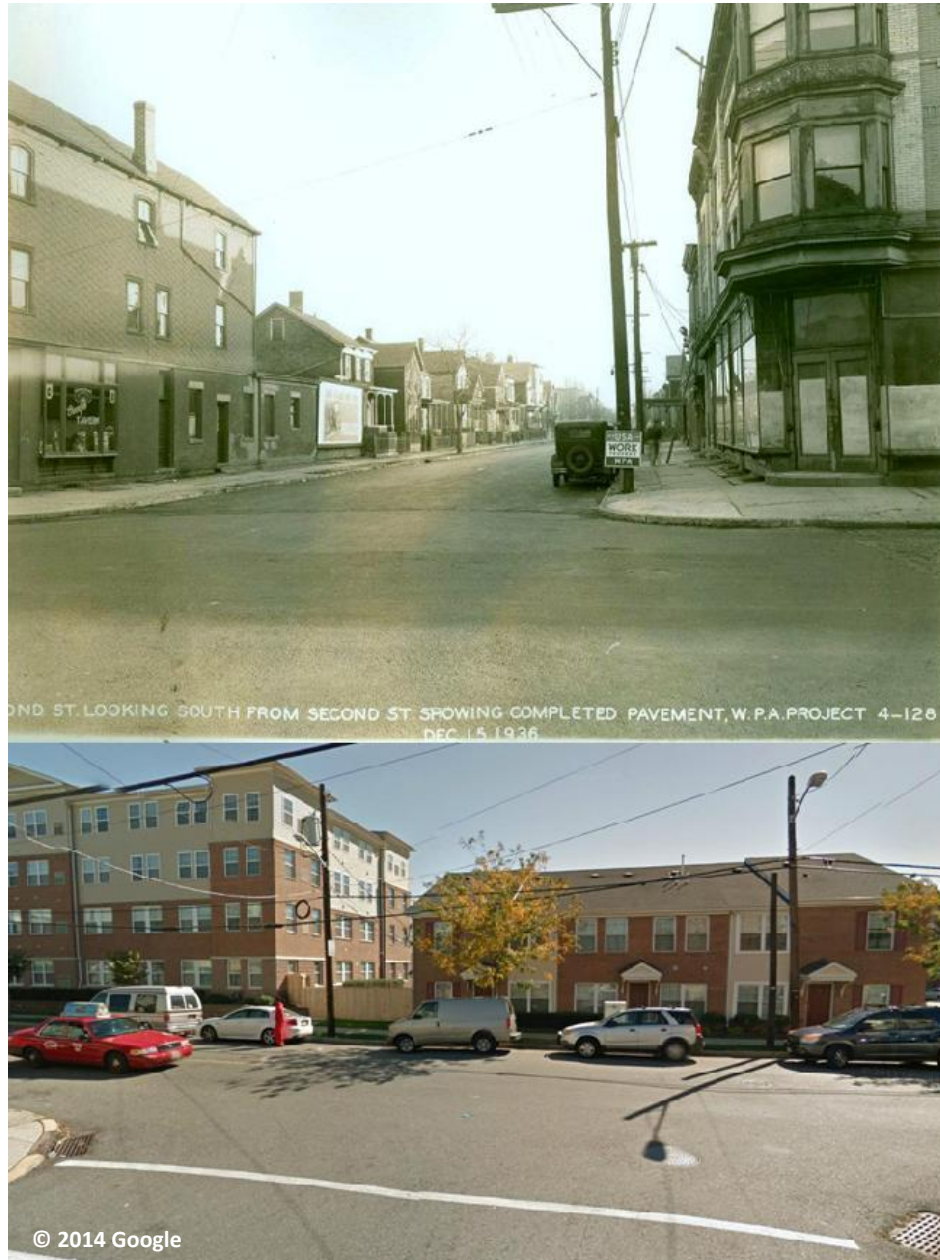
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Second St. View from Magnolia Ave. to Bond St. early 1900s

Second St. had trolley service but fewer stores than First St. However the three-story M. Levy and Son department store, at the corner of Magnolia Ave., was one of the largest stores in the city in the early 1900s. When Broad St. became the premier shopping district in the city, Emmanuel Levy and his brother Bernard built a multi-story department store there in 1923.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bond St. View South from Second St.

The top photo, taken in 1936 during a WPA (Works Progress Administration) paving project, shows Bond St. looking south from Second St. The building on the left at 217 Second St. was Louis Bressman's saloon in 1919. The building on the right, at 211 Second St. and appearing vacant in this photo, earlier housed the clothing store of Bernhard S. Natelson. Nearby at 225 Second St. was the coat factory of Morris L. Natelson. A few doors further down from the corner at 150 Bond St. was the Gayety movie theater.

By the time of this photo (1936) the Natelson clothing store had likely moved to Broad St.

These buildings and residences were razed by 1940 for the construction of Pioneer Homes, a major public housing project. Like many high density public housing projects, Pioneer Homes eventually failed. The buildings were demolished around 2000 and replaced with the modern housing seen in today's view.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Former Pimpao Grocery on Second St. Right: Former Pimpao Meat Market on Magnolia Ave.

The Pimpao grocery at 233 Second St. at Pine St. and meat market on Magnolia Ave. at Fifth St. serviced the needs of Portuguese residents of the Port. The business was started in the late 1920s by Luciano Pimpao, born in 1898 in Portugal. My father worked there as a butcher in the 1940s before finding a job as a chemical operator with General Aniline in Linden. But he would still work in the store on Saturdays and during strikes at General Aniline. I think Pimpao's stores lasted until the late 1970s.



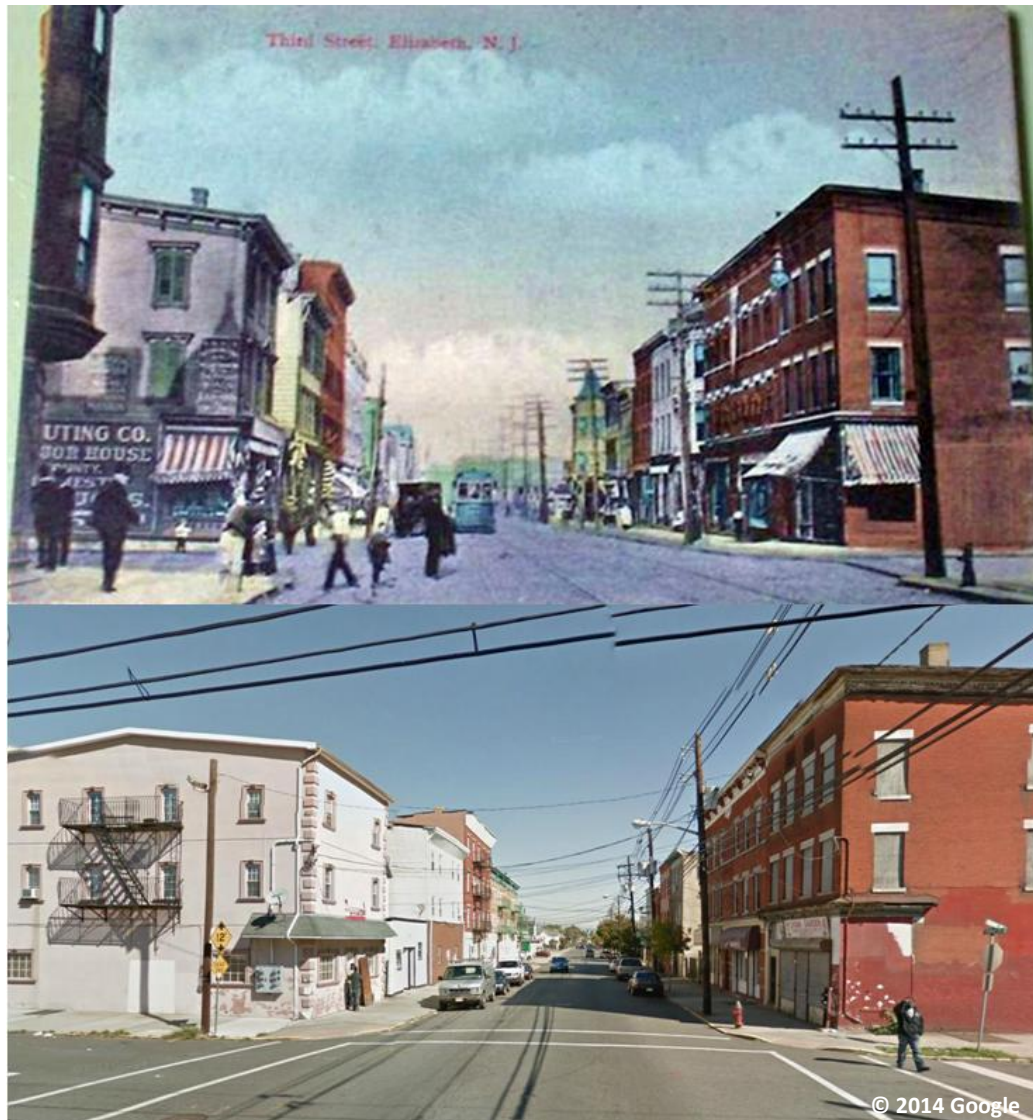
Former Park View Hotel on Second St.

The Park View Hotel at 347 Second St. at the corner of Trumbull St. was owned in the early 1900s by George Simpson. It was one of nine hotels in Elizabethport in 1919. In addition to hotels, the area near the Singer Manufacturing Co. had boarding houses and many saloons to accommodate workers. These facilities were primarily owned by German immigrants. A block away at 100 Trumbull St. was the Park Hotel owned by Fred Grampp. He opened Grampp's Hardware on Elizabeth Ave. in the 1920s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

This corner may have been the location of King's Hotel in the late 19th century. The owner was Gottfried Krueger of Newark. The hotel, adjoining tenement building, and a boarding house were destroyed by a spectacular fire in 1894. The current building may have housed the rebuilt hotel or was newly erected.

Today's view shows a bar and apartments occupying the former Park View Hotel.



Third St. View from Bond St. to Pine St.

Third St., looking from Bond St., was a busy shopping street serviced by a trolley in this early 1900s postcard. The block between Bond and Pine Streets had the following stores in 1919: meat, produce, tailor, barber, shoemaker, A & P grocery, variety, confectionary, news dealer, druggist, restaurant and of course a saloon. The view today shows most of the buildings remain, although some storefronts are closed and the shoppers are gone.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Urbanik's Polish Market on Third St.

In the 1920-1930 period, Polish residents were the largest ethnic group in Elizabethport with 44 percent of the population. Stanley Urbanik's Polish market was located at the corner of Third and Franklin Streets for many years. The smoked kielbasa was highly rated and at Easter time the store was jammed with customers who had to take a number to be waited on. Next door was the office of Dr. Koslowski, a dentist. The building on the left is St. Adalbert's parish hall.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Thum Bros. Pharmacy on Third St.

The Thum Bros. Pharmacy was located at 54 Third St. in this 1889 photo. The Thum family came with their sons from Germany about 1880 and settled in Newark. Frederick William Thum graduated from the New York College of Pharmacy in 1885. He and his brother George entered the pharmacy business in Elizabeth around that time. Frederick received an M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York and practiced in Newark. Brother A.H. Thum joined the pharmacy, which was destroyed in a fire in 1893 but was rebuilt. The same year George received a trademark for "Thum's Tapeworm Capsules". Frederick died in 1902 at age 38 after becoming infected by a cut while operating on a patient.

Today the store is a barbershop on a somewhat downtrodden Third St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



FRANK HAND COMPANY

HARDWARE AND PAINTS, ELECTRICAL, FACTORY AND CONTRACTORS' SUPPLIES,
PIPE AND FITTINGS, GLASS, WALL PAPER, OILS, OARS, ROPE AND BLOCKS
80-82 THIRD STREET, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY



Hand Hardware Co. on Third St. and Later Jefferson Ave.

Frank Hand operated a hardware and paint store on Third St., shown in this 1907 advertisement. By 1920 the business had moved to 335-337 East Jersey St. and was called the Hand Hardware Co. Expansion into industrial supplies and contractors equipment led to relocation in 1937 to a new building at 157-161 Jefferson Ave. near the corner of East Grand St. I remember going there in the 1950s with my father to buy a tool.

In 1964 the president of the company, George W. Bugher, went missing. The store safes were found open and Bugher's abandoned car was located a few days later. For years the Elizabeth Daily Journal covered the disappearance but Bugher was never found.

The building was later taken over by the Winters Stamp Manufacturing Co. , a maker of rubber stamps and signs. The building has since been demolished.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Former Engine Co. 5 on Third St. Right: City Ambulance Facility on Elizabeth Ave.

Hibernia Engine Co. No. 5 was established at 131 Wall St. (now Magnolia Ave.) in 1866. It was the first company in Elizabeth to train a horse to hook up to a hose wagon when an alarm was received. The company moved to a new brick building with distinctive architecture at 146 Third St. (left photo) about 1913.

Later Engine Co. No. 5 relocated to 147 Elizabeth Ave. (right photo). In 1980 this station was closed when Elizabeth reduced the number of fire stations to seven. It now serves as a recruitment and ambulance facility.



Fish Market on Magnolia Ave. ca. 1930

"Mom and Pop" stores were very common in the city. This fish market was at 339 Magnolia Ave. Only the first name, James, of the owner is visible on the window. He was known as "Jimmy the Fish." Note the wooden crates on the right at the curb-probably for deliveries of iced down fish. Magnolia Ave. was still a cobblestone street at the time. The 1919 City Directory indicates this was a restaurant owned by Julius Toth who lived on the second floor. Today's view shows the remodeled building, near the CRR overpass, has been converted to residential use on both floors. The home next door is new.

Arnold Samuelsen: "James Dimino (1883-1974) operated a fish market at 339 Magnolia Ave. from 1924 to 1959, or later, according to city directory listings. He resided at that address with his wife Angelina and, according to the 1930 census, with five children: Bertha (born 1908), Charles (1910), Joseph (1913) Lawrence (1914), Marie (1916)."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Post Office on Third St. at Livingston St.

Years ago Elizabethport was a self-sufficient community with schools, churches, shopping and entertainment. It even had a Post Office branch at the corner of Third and Livingston Streets which dated to 1915 or earlier

Near the left of this photo was the Walton movie theater at 104 Third St. In 1946 the Cocalis Amusement Co. of New York purchased several of the buildings along this block with plans to build a 1200 seat movie theater. But the plans were not realized.

Today the former movie theater is a branch of the Elizabeth Public Library. The two-story brick building next door houses Catholic Community Services.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Loizeaux Builders Supply Co. on Third St.

The yellow Loizeuax concrete delivery trucks were once a common sight in Elizabeth. The Loizeaux Builders Supply Co. was located at 140 Third St. for many years. This photo dates to 1927 when horse-drawn wagons were still being used for delivery alongside motor trucks. The firm also had a dock on South First St. at Elizabeth Ave. for receiving construction raw materials. Their slogan was "From Cellar to Chimney."

Today's view shows an empty lot next to the brick building once used by Engine Company No. 5.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Strassman Hardware on Third St.

The Strassman Hardware store did good business for many years at 179-181 Third St., beginning in 1898. The 1919 City Directory listed the business as the Joseph Strassman and Sons Hardware and Paint Co. The Strassman family lived on the second floor. The Laciattelli grocery was next door. The Strassman business later moved to 633 Dowd Ave. but is now closed.

Today's view shows the Third St. building is abandoned.



Building on Third St. at Pine St.

This large 3-story brick building on Third St. and Pine St. dates to 1919 or earlier. Note that the decorative brackets under the eaves are still present along with the original bas-reliefs on the frieze. The ground floor stores in 1919 included Samuel Lebowitz grocery, Solomon Koplewitz confectionary, John Hoffman embroidery, Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., and on the corner the Nicholas Kless saloon/restaurant. Kless also operated a hotel in the building. The stores were recently converted to apartments.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Botelho Boarding House on Pine St.

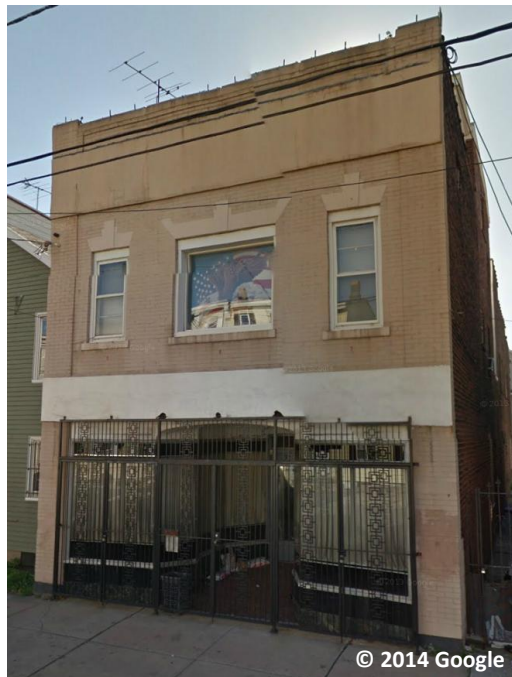
Portuguese immigrants began settling in Elizabethport in the early 1920s. My aunt and uncle Anna and Julius Botelho, born in Portugal, owned a boarding house at 245 Pine St. in the late 1920s. The 1930 Census indicates the Botelhos were living there with their young children Olga, Esther and George. There were six boarders including my father's cousin Felix Almeida. Felix worked at the DuPont chemical plant in Linden and two of the other boarders, also Portuguese, worked at a soap factory that was probably the Proctor & Gamble plant on Staten Island. The onset of the Great Depression put the boarding house out of business and the Botelhos returned to Portugal. Their children returned to Elizabeth in the mid-late 1940s, living with us at 219 South St. until they found jobs and married. Anna, then a widow, returned in the early 1950s and lived in Elizabethport for many years.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Laurie Hotel and Café on East Jersey St.

Laurie's Hotel and Café was one of several hotels operating in Elizabethport in 1919, according to the City Directory. It was built at 78 East Jersey St. about 1916 by owner William Laurie. These small hotels were popular with single or transient workers in nearby industries like Singer. They usually had a restaurant or a saloon on the ground floor. The three-story building is now the Elizabeth House apartments.



Trzyna Photography Studio on East Jersey St.

We went to the Trzyna Studio in Elizabethport for family portraits in the late 1940s or early 1950s. August Trzyna (1889-1972) came to the U.S. from Poland in 1907 and settled in Elizabeth. The 1919 City Directory reported that

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

he worked as a window cleaner and lived at 213 Second St. In the 1920s, he established a photography studio at 320 East Jersey St., formerly owned by photographer Henry Hoffman. August, his wife Mary and their six children also lived there. The studio was near St. Adalbert's R.C. Church, which the family had close ties to.

After Trzyna retired, his eldest daughter ran the studio. The business closed shortly after their 75th anniversary in the 1990s.



Former Gollin Feed and Grain Business on East Jersey St.

This two-story red brick building is at 456 East Jersey St. In 1919 it was the feed and grain business of Charles E. Gollin. He also bottled beverages next door at 454 East Jersey St. The faded ad on the side of the building was for Pillsbury flour.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



East Jersey St. Looking West from Third St.

The caption of the top photo is "Placing mortar under the trolley rails, East Jersey St., Aug. 1924." In the background on the left is a railroad crossing sign for the CRR line that was at grade level back then. Today's view shows the 3-story and 2-buildings, near the center of the 1924 photo, are still there today. The CRR line was elevated in 1938 to prevent pedestrian fatalities and vehicle accidents. Many of the other buildings were razed to make way for the Turnpike in 1950.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



East Jersey St. View East from Fourth St.

The top photo, taken in 1949, is a view of East Jersey St. looking east to the CRR overpass from Fourth St. St. Adalbert's Church on Third St. is in the background. The buildings on the left and right were among the 250 demolished or moved to make way for the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950.

Today's view shows the Turnpike overpass with the railroad overpass behind it. Elizabethport suffered from geographic isolation after the Turnpike construction which hurt the economy. But in recent years there has been renewed interest in this section of the city, with new residential housing on many streets.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



East Jersey St. at Fifth St.

The top photo is a 1913 postcard of well dressed sightseers in an open touring car, proceeding south on East Jersey St. Note the cobblestone street and the trolley tracks.

The four-story brick building on the right is at 501 East Jersey St. at the corner of Fifth St. It was built between 1903 and 1914, when it was mentioned in the New York Call, February 13, 1914. William J. Durant was to give a lecture on "Sex and Religion" that evening at a meeting of "Branch 19" in this building. Branch 19 may have been a social or church organization.

William James Durant (1885 – 1981) was a prolific American writer, historian, and philosopher. He is best known for The Story of Civilization, eleven volumes written in collaboration with his wife Ariel Durant and published between 1935 and 1975. Durant was educated by the Jesuits in St. Peter's Preparatory School and, later Saint Peter's College in Jersey City. After graduation in 1907, he taught classic languages at Seton Hall University. In 1913, he left teaching and began lecturing in a Presbyterian church for five- and ten-dollar fees. This material became the starting point for The Story of Civilization.

The building looks similar to other corner buildings in the city with a rooftop turret over the rounded corner tower and decorative brackets under the eaves. The building was later used by Time Cleaners which had a large clock above the door. A grocery store is on the ground floor today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



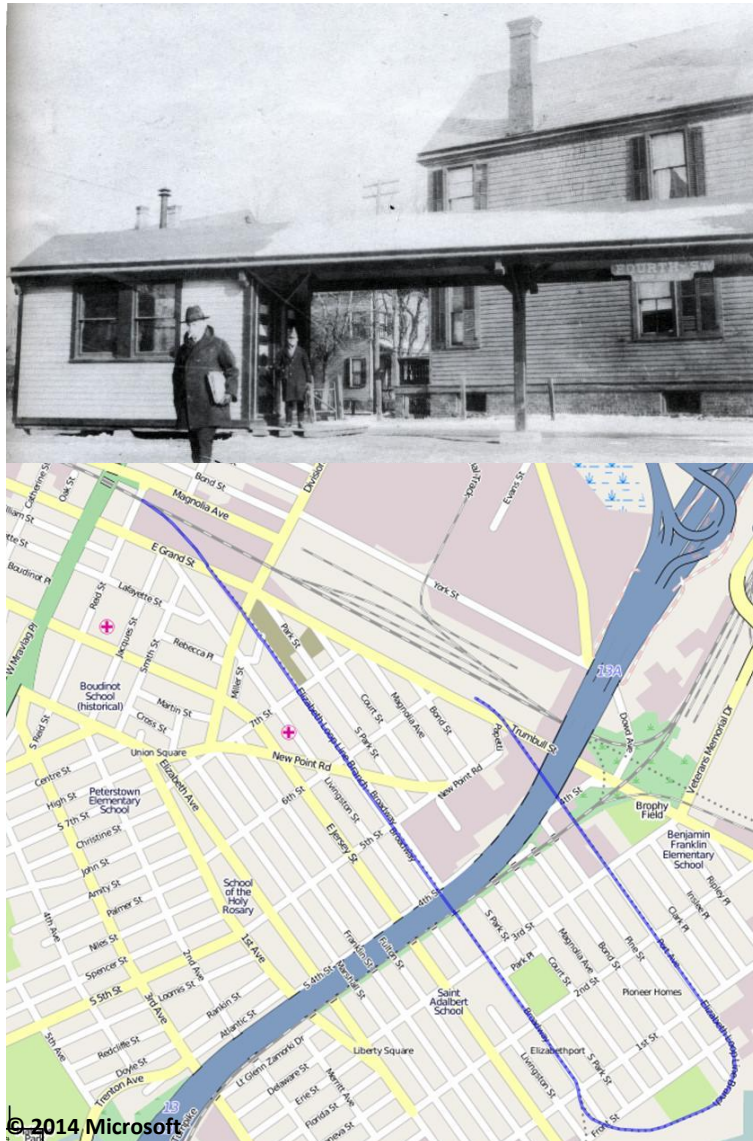
East Jersey St. at Sixth St.

The top photo dates to the early 1920s when many Elizabeth streets were repaved. The man on the far right in the straw hat looks like Mayor Dr. Victor Mravlag who served 1909-1911 and again 1913-1923.

The building is at 563 East Jersey St. and housed the Union Meat Market on the ground floor and the dental office of Dr. Joseph M. Berwald on the second floor.

Today's view shows the building in use as a liquor store.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Central Railroad Station at Fourth St. and Loop Line

The vintage photo at top shows the Central Railroad Fourth St. station at the intersection of Broadway. This obscure station was on the Elizabeth Loop line that serviced Elizabethport. The left side of this loop started from the Spring St. station and went down Broadway on the old Central main line that once delivered passengers and freight to the Arthur Kill, where a steamer connected to New York. The right side of the loop used a freight line along Port Ave. When the Newark Bay bridge was completed in 1864, passenger service on the old main line ended. The Elizabeth Loop was started around 1905 to service factory shifts with trains several times a day. The Loop service was discontinued around 1925. The elevation of the CRR New York and Long Branch line, which ran just south of Fourth St., in 1936 eliminated the Fourth St. station and the connecting curve at Broadway. The Spring St. station was eliminated around 1951.

Arnold Samuelson said "The tracks of the Long Branch Division were not elevated until 1936 when work started on raising the rails nine feet and bridging 15 streets at a cost of \$4.7 million, with about \$2.1 million coming from the Works Project Administration. The year 1937 is inscribed on some, if not all of the bridges. Trains started using the elevated tracks on May 11, 1938."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Location of Larry's Generator Shop on Livingston St.

This well maintained building at 400 Livingston St. and Fourth St. was the site of John Noonan's saloon in 1919. In the 1960s it was Larry's Generator shop where car generators and starters were rebuilt. It closed when Larry joined the Elizabeth Police Department as a mechanic.



Kopecky's Bakery on Fourth St.

Kopecky's Bakery on Fourth St. at Franklin St. was one of many ethnic bakeries in Elizabethport. Horse drawn delivery wagons are seen in this early 1900s photo along with the bakery staff. Owner Frank Kopecky sold the business to his brother Joseph in 1922. The bakery is long gone but the building remains today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



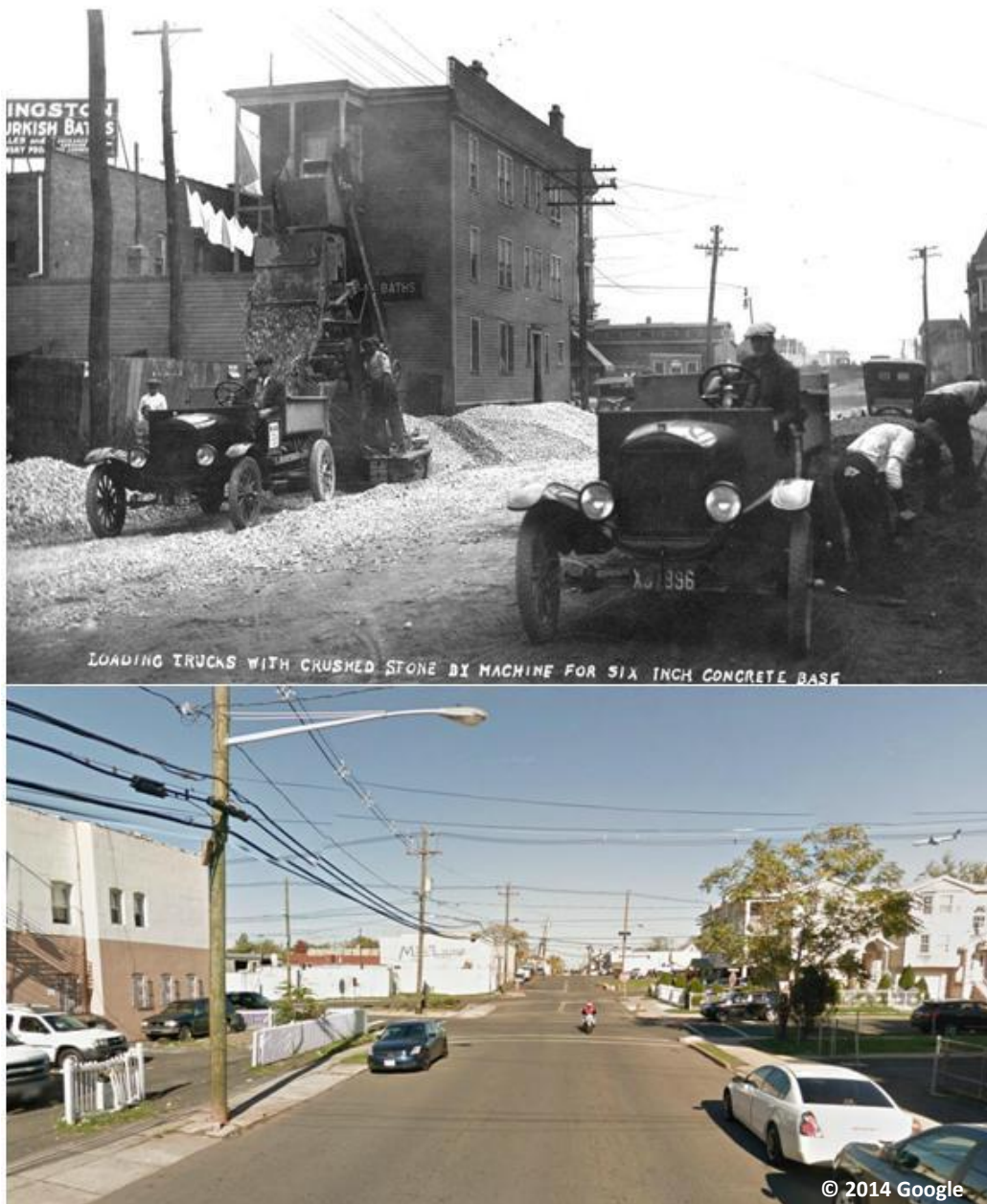
Convenience Store at New Point Road, Fifth and Court Streets

This 1916 postcard shows what a corner convenience store looked like back then. The sign on the top of the odd shaped building reads Pearline, once a leading soap brand. The two chests may have held drinks on ice during the summer. Posing are a policeman and a man smoking a pipe. Between them a dog is standing on his hind legs, not an easy trick since the photographer may have needed 5-10 seconds for the film exposure.

The location is the triangle bounded by New Point Road, Fifth and Court Streets. In the 1950s-1960s the store was Max's. He sold newspapers, comics, cigarettes, and candy. There was also a soda fountain.

Today the building is a residence.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Sixth St. View to Livingston St.

Bette Midler got her breakthrough singing in a Turkish bath in New York City. You would not expect to find a Turkish bath in Elizabeth but this photo documents the Livingston Turkish Baths at 602 Livingston St. This is the building on the left in a scene of a paving project on Sixth St. dating to the 1920s. The building was previously used by the Young Men and Women's Hebrew Association before it moved to a new building at 1034 East Jersey St. The 3-story building next door is at 600 Livingston St. and housed the grocery store of Joseph Kalt.

The view today shows the Livingston Turkish Baths and Kalt grocery store are gone. On the right are new homes built on Livingston St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former New Jersey Pretzel Factory on Livingston St.

Elizabeth had a pretzel factory in the 1930s, located in this red brick building at 816-818 Livingston St. The New Jersey Pretzel factory employed deaf mutes hired through the State Department of Institutions and Agencies. The pretzel bending done by these workers was one of the few handicrafts immune to automation, at least up to the late 1930s when a pretzel making machine was invented.

Earlier uses of the building include the Columbia Pattern Works and Gnome Machine and Tool Co. in 1919. More recent tenants included the Plastic Extruded Products Co. and Geppetto's Workshop which made residential cabinets. Today the building is closed.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Livingston St. View South from Seventh St. Alexian Bros. Hospital on Right.

This 1948 photo is a view of Livingston St. looking south from Seventh St. The cobblestone street was being paved over. Today's view is quite similar, but Alexian Brothers Hospital is now called Trinitas. The building on the right in the top photo was removed for a parking lot.

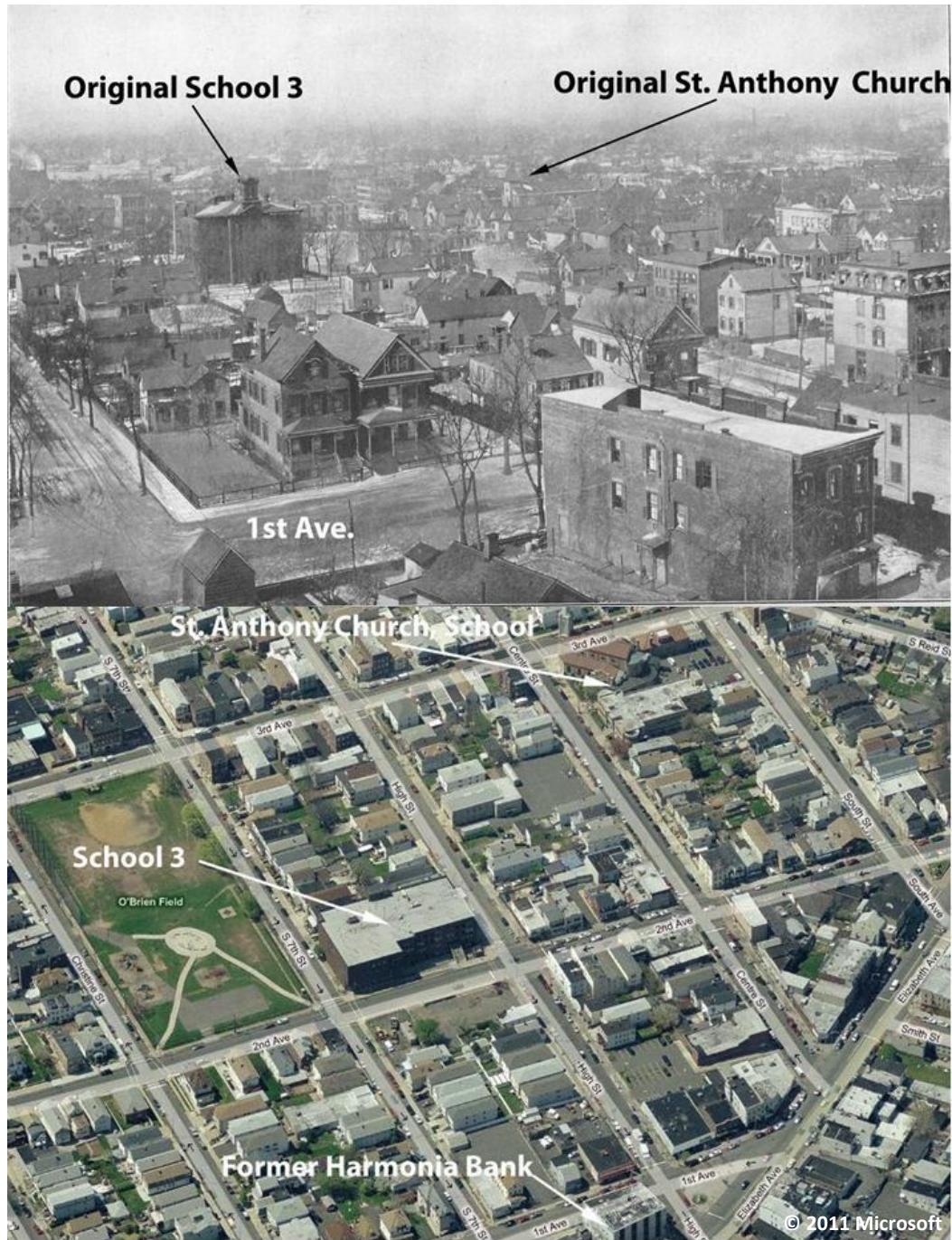
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Marshall St. View South from Central Railroad

This is a 1938 photo of Marshall St. looking south from the Central Railroad. The grade level crossing was being elevated at the time. Note the temporary wood stairs to allow residents access to their homes due to the change in street elevation. The view today shows the homes are well maintained with brick steps now in place.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Peterstown Then and Now

The top photo is a 1907 aerial view of Peterstown, looking west. It was probably taken from the roof of the five-story Rising Sun Brewery on Marshall Street. The original School No. 3 on High St. and Second Ave. was built in 1872 and has been replaced twice. It is now called the Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3. The first St. Anthony's Church was actually the former German Methodist Church, built in 1854 on Centre Street. It was acquired in 1903 and converted to a Catholic church to serve the growing number of Italian immigrants in Peterstown. The current St. Anthony's Church was built in 1927 and the old church was converted into a Sunday school and social hall. This two-story wooden building was demolished in the mid-1950s for a new church school, now called Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy. Many of the homes from 1907 remain today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Public Market in Peterstown 1922

This is a rare 1922 scene of the busy open air public market along Second Ave. and Centre and High Streets. A few cars and trucks are seen but horse drawn wagons were still used to haul in the produce. It was open three mornings a week at the time.

We lived on South St. in the 1940s-1950s and shopped weekly for fruits and vegetables here. Tagging along with my mother or father was a Saturday morning treat topped off with a Sabrett hotdog from the Italian pushcart vendor near the Olympia Square cannon. The curb-side peddlers had traditional Italian specialties like cucuzza (squash) and melanzana (eggplant) which my mother pronounced something like mullin-yan. There were baskets of live snails and dandelions for sale. Fabric bolts and kitchenware were on display too. Steiner's offered whole loaves of coarse rye bread, stored on wood shelves, and nuts, spices and chile peppers in burlap bags. At Easter time, chicks and rabbits were offered for sale. The market was a crowded, noisy place on Saturday mornings, with the peddlers shouting their wares *"hey getcha fresh here"*. Nearby were poultry, meat, and fish stores.

TV personality "Top Chef" Tom Colicchio, a native of Elizabeth, had his first job in the open-air market. The market was closed for many years but since 2002 the Elizabeth Avenue Farmers Market operates at Union Square Plaza on Tuesdays from June to November.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Location of Kramer's Poultry on Second Ave.

The Navas Elizabeth Live Poultry Market at 845 Second Ave., on the left of this recent photo, shows there is still a demand for fresh-killed chickens in Peterstown.

We lived nearby on South St. in the 1940-1950s and bought our chickens at the Kramer Poultry store at 843 Second Ave., the building in the middle of the photo. Joseph Kramer was born in Austria in 1878 and operated a grocery store in this building according to the 1919 City Directory. Later his son Samuel joined the business which became a poultry market.

My cousin Ron and I were always happy to run an errand for our mothers on Saturday to pick up a fresh-killed chicken. The place had sawdust on the floor and really stunk but we didn't mind. We kids were fascinated by the tall black worker, whose name may have been Hugo, who always had a small bandage on his nose. He wore a white paper hat, blood stained apron, and rubber boots. The man had an air of professionalism about himself and quietly went about his work after asking if you wanted a fryer or roaster. He would calmly grab the chicken from a pen, oblivious to its frantic wing flapping, slit its throat, suspend it head down in a barrel to drain the blood, gut it and then put it on a rotating drum fitted with wire brushes to rip off the feathers. When the blizzard of feathers subsided, he burnt off the remaining feathers over an open flame, creating yet another fowl odor. He chopped off the feet and offered to include them which we politely declined. He sliced the chicken up and wrapped up the still warm parts, including the neck and gizzard, which our mothers used for soup, in heavy brown paper and tied it with a string. These fresh-killed chickens, which were not doped with the antibiotics and preservatives used today, tasted great for Sunday afternoon dinner!

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Sutera Bros. Grocery on Second Ave.

The Sutera Bros. grocery store was located for years at 804 Second Ave. and carried fine imported Italian cheeses, olive oil and pasta. I remember stopping there in the 1950s with my uncle Dom Imbriaco. He bought a wedge of provolone and with his handy penknife sliced off samples for us kids. The store closed when Joseph and Vinnie Sutera retired in 2003. The Peterstown Italian-American grocery stores had a wonderful aroma and an old-time ambiance that you will not find at a ShopRite or Walmart supermarket today!



Grocery Store on Second Ave.

There has been a grocery or confectionary store in this building as long as I remember. The location is 801 Second Ave. at High St., across from School 3. In 1919 Mrs. Annie Heimlich, widow of Gustav, had a grocery store here. By that time, Italians were the predominant ethnic group in Peterstown which was originally a German and Irish neighborhood.

The building later housed Bel-Dee produce owned by Vito Bellino and Tom DeMicco. Guy and Alex DeMicco eventually took over the business. A grocery store is there today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Luchio's Tavern on Second Ave.

Luchio's Tavern was in this two-story brick building on Second Ave. near South St. We would buy their takeout pizza in the 1950s. There was a restaurant in the back. The tavern did good business on market days.

The 1919 City Directory lists Antonio Luchio, a laborer, living at 848 Second Ave. which is the home next door. The 1940 census indicates Antonio worked as a porter for Diehl Mfg. Co., a maker of fans in Elizabethport. He and his wife Rosina had five children: Michael, Thomas, Frank, Angelina and Mary. Thomas P. Luchio was Assistant City Clerk in the 1940s and City Clerk in the 1950s. Michael operated the tavern.

Today the building has a sign "Salsa Rumba Sports Bar" which is closed and for rent.



Former Stasi's Grocery on Third Ave. and South St.

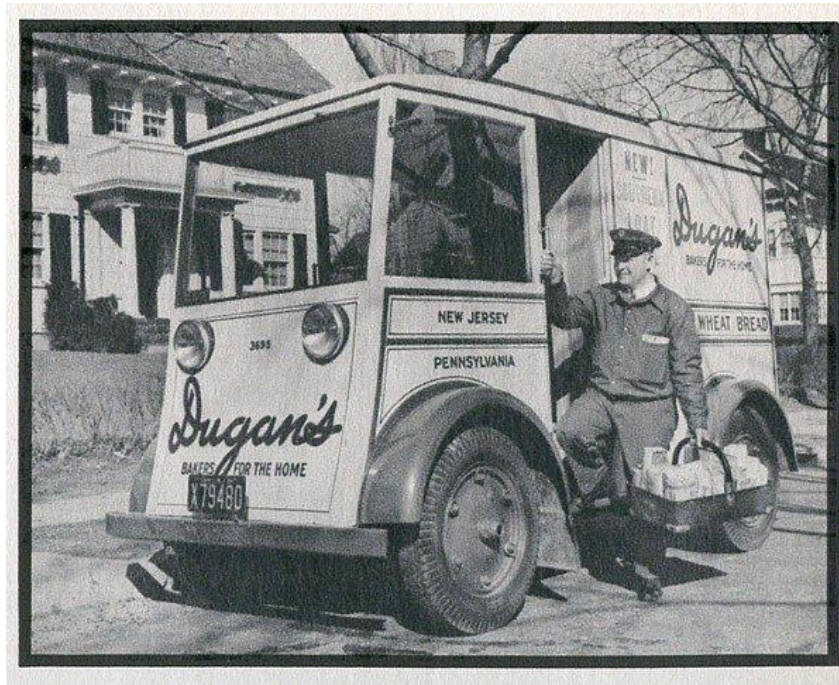
Stasi's grocery store was at the junction of South St., Reid St. and Third Ave. They had cold cuts including Italian imports like cappicola. John and Clara Stasi gave credit to people by just writing their tab down in pencil in a note book. John tallied up your bill quickly on the back of a brown paper bag. The Stasis had two sons, Jack and Donald, who worked at the store.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

When we lived a few doors down the block on South St. until 1957. A trip to Stasi's to pick up milk, bread, a bottle of soda or a newspaper was a daily routine. I usually bought a pack of Bazooka bubble gum that had a folded up comic strip inside.

In the evening this corner was a hangout for guys showing off their hotrods or motorcycles and drinking Cokes from Staci's cooler.

Today the remodeled building is a sub sandwich shop.



Dugan's Bakery Delivery Truck

A delivery truck often seen on Elizabeth streets was from Dugan's Bakery in Newark. The truck carried a selection of breads, cupcakes, coffee cake, jellyrolls and other sweet goodies. My aunt Mildred Fonseca liked their raisin bread and had it delivered to her door.

Laundry bleach in the Italian neighborhood of Peterstown was called bianco lino (pronounced byaan-GOH-leen) and was delivered weekly. The bleach came in glass jugs labeled Purefine Washing Fluid. The delivery man in the 1950s was Frank Maytas who lived on Rahway Ave.

There were other street vendors hawking their wares or services including a rag collector with a horse drawn wagon, a knife sharpener and a produce seller. Some of these men were immigrants who spoke little English; others were disabled men struggling to make a living.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Spirito's Restaurant on Third Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Spirito's restaurant at 714 Third Ave. is an iconic symbol of Peterstown and the longest operating family owned restaurant in Elizabeth. The 1919 City Directory listed Antonio Spirito having a dry goods store a few doors away at 704 Third Ave. The building at 714 Third Ave. was the saloon of Anthony Scranton. A movie theater was in the rear of the building. Spirito acquired the saloon in 1932 during the Depression and started serving sausage and pepper sandwiches. This led to a full restaurant menu. The end of Prohibition in 1933 further sparked the business. One of the most popular dishes today is the veal and ravioli.



August Arace & Sons Inc. on Third Ave.

The August Arace & Sons Inc. building is located at 642 Third Ave. and Christine St., opposite O'Brien Field. The engineering and construction firm was founded in 1907 by August Arace. Mr. Arace died in 1932 of injuries suffered in a fall. The business was continued for many years by his sons.

The firm constructed industrial and commercial buildings and installed plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems. The firm fabricated and installed stainless steel tubing in pharmaceutical plants which required precision sanitary welds. In 1992, sales were \$25 million with 100 employees. The company is no longer in business.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Facsimile Photo of Van Devere Moving Truck ca. 1920s

The 1921 City Directory lists the Henry P. Van Devere & Sons trucking business at 220 High St. This was also a six-family home for Henry, his sons Arthur and Clifford, and other family members. A vintage photo of the Van Devere truck could not be found, so I Photo Shopped a generic 1920s moving truck to convey the look of the Van Devere business back then.

The Van Deveres were one of the oldest black-owned businesses in Elizabeth and one of the few black families residing in Peterstown. We hired the firm in 1957 to move us from South St. to Westfield Ave. and they did a great job. When we moved to Cranford in 1960 we again selected Van Devere as our movers. The firm is now known as H. P. Van Devere & Son, located in Roselle. The High St. home was replaced by a new home in 1998.

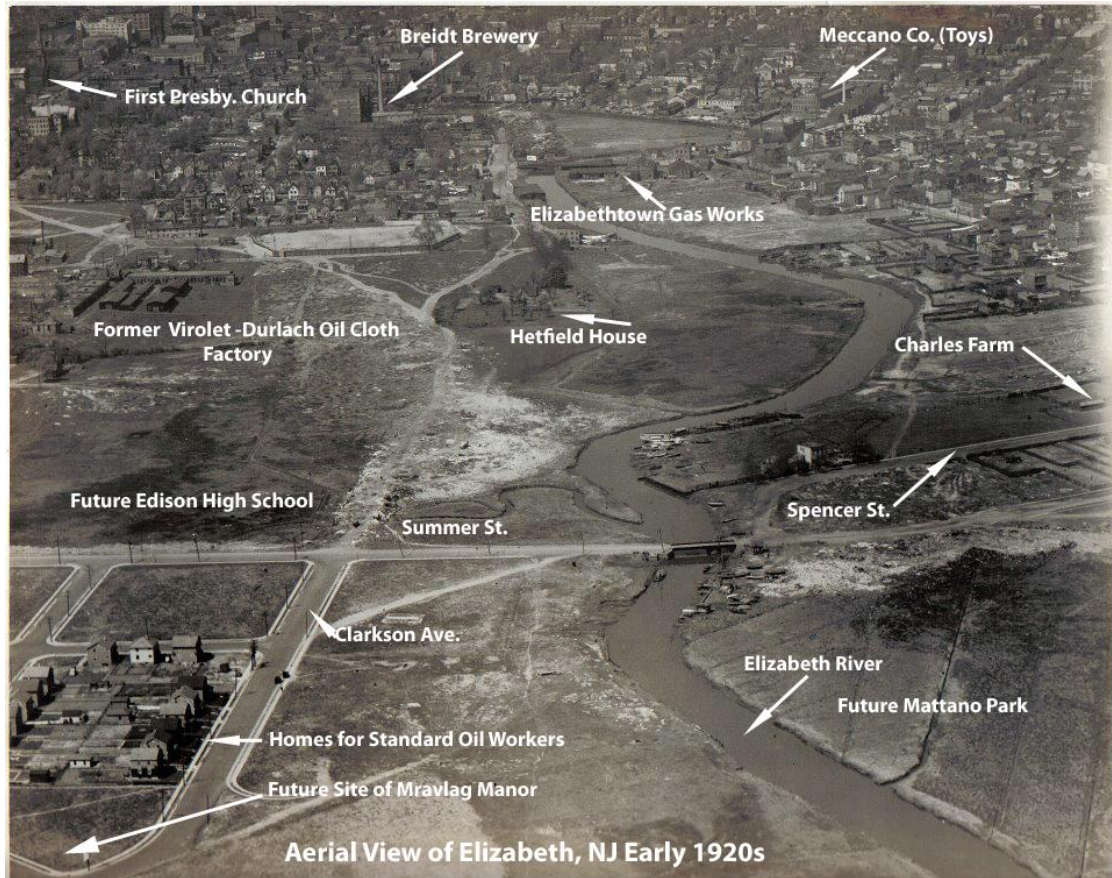
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



John St. View West from Third Ave.

The top photo of 1949 is a view of John St. looking west from Third Ave. In 1919 the building on the left at 612 Third Ave. housed the grocery store of Tillie Feinswog. From the 1920s to the late 1950s this was the hardware store of Michael Tornambe. On the right at 620 Third Ave. was the saloon of Nicola DeVito in 1919. On the other side of the intersection at 615 Third Ave. was the meat market of Antonio Nocera. This later became Barone's grocery. Across from it at 621 Third Ave. was the saloon of Nicola LaCorte.

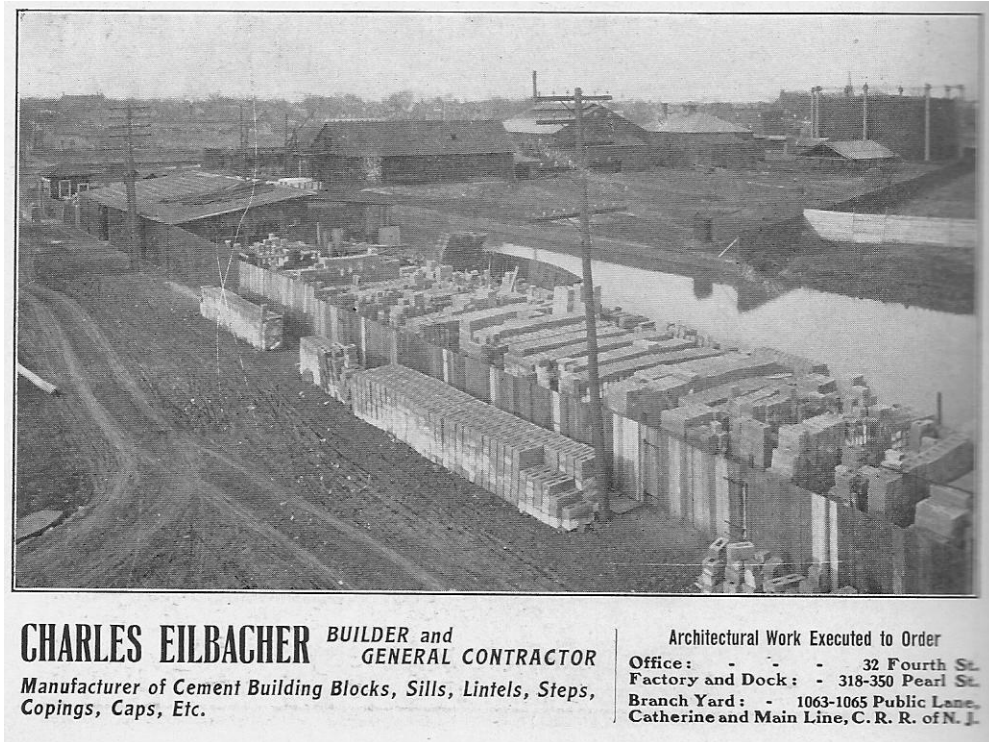
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Aerial View of Elizabeth North from Arthur Kill 1923

This aerial view of 1923 looks north following the Elizabeth River as it winds its way to the central business district. It shows the Bayway area was still somewhat rural. In 1919 Standard Oil employed 4,500 people and started construction of 300 homes for workers on a 50 acre tract in Bayway just east of the refinery. The Charles Farm, off Spencer St., was one of several small farms in Peterstown that were still active in the 1920s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Charles Eilbacher Construction Supply on Elizabeth River 1907

The Charles Eilbacher construction yard and dock was located on the Elizabeth River. In the background is the Elizabethtown Gas Works storage tank. Eilbacher manufactured cement blocks for the construction of homes and commercial buildings. The firm also made ornamental cement products such as garden urns and pillars. At the time there were several businesses along the Elizabeth River that used boats to receive or ship materials like coal, lumber, and brick and stone.



Erie St. View West from Second Ave.

This view of Erie St., at the intersection of Second Ave., shows the only gas tank left at the Elizabethtown Gas Co. site. This is a much smaller tank, containing liquefied natural gas, compared to the huge tanks that loomed over the Frog Hollow neighborhood for years.

In 1919, the saloon run by Anna Novak was in the building on the left. She was the widow of Jacob Novak. Across the street was the saloon of John Bator, which is still a tavern today. The 1919 City Directory indicates about 90

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

percent of the residents of Erie St. were Polish. It was a tightly knit neighborhood of immigrants who worked in Elizabethport and Bayway factories to provide for their families.



Bayway Ave. View Southeast at Brunswick Ave. 1932

This 1932 photo is a view of Bayway Ave. looking southeast at the intersection of Brunswick Ave. A new sewer was being installed. Note the railroad car style diner on the left. A trolley connected Bayway Ave. with South Broad St. It continued south from here to Woodbridge Ave. where it turned right to service the Standard Oil plant. Workers relied on mass transportation back then as few had cars.

The scene today is entirely different due to the truncation of Bayway Ave. and the demolition of these buildings and homes for the I-278 ramps.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bayway Ave. View Southwest at Amboy Ave.

The top photo is a 1947 view of Bayway Ave. looking southwest to the intersection with Amboy Ave. The scene in 2014 did not change much except for the new industrial building on the left. This is a cold storage warehouse that replaced the Reichold Chemical plant.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Idle Buildings on Bayway Ave.

The building in the center with the red brick front was best known as the Anchor Tavern, a favorite gathering place of Bayway workers. Peter Pitula's saloon was located there in 1919. In the building at left was Frank Kwiatek's saloon. Almost all the residents on the block were Polish at the time.

These buildings, including the Bayway Terminal warehouse seen below, have been razed to make way for a new bridge to Staten Island. The warehouse was built in the 1920s to take advantage of the city's excellent rail and harbor access. It was more recently known as the Cory Warehouse.



Bayway Terminal Warehouse ca. 1927

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Adamec Motorcycle Shop on Edgar Road

The Adamec Harley-Davidson dealership was at 771-773 Edgar Road. George Adamec purchased a Jamaica, New York dealership for \$500 in 1931 and moved it to the family hometown of Elizabeth when he was just 21 years old. His wife Julia was a star rider, winning a skills event at the New York World Fair in 1939. In 1962 George and son Allan moved the business to Jacksonville, Florida where it is now operated by grandson Mark Adamec.

The site of the former cycle shop, at the corner of Spofford Ave., is occupied by a liquor store today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Stores on Edgar Road

In the summer of 1962 I worked for McCready's Auto Parts, located in the building on the left on Edgar Road near the Bayway Circle. I picked up new and reconditioned parts from wholesalers in Newark and delivered them to gas stations and repair garages around town. The pay was minimum wage, \$1.25 an hour, not much unless you were a teenager like me living at home. Owner Tom McCready was a gruff Irishman, but a good boss who shared everything he knew about the business. He died in 1992 an age 88.

Further up Edgar Road, near Lidgerwood Ave., was the Ives welding shop. It had large wooden doors in the front that swung out. Mr. Ives handled all sorts of welding, including for autos, household items and bicycles. There are few of these skilled craftsmen working today in an age of disposable appliances and electronics.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elmora Ave. Then and Now

The suburban Elmora section of the city has its own shopping district on Elmora Ave. with many retail stores. I remember Rockoff's, one of the best clothing stores for men in the city. Although the Elmora movie theater has closed, Elmora Ave. remains a busy shopping area.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Top: Goodman's Restaurant on Elmora Ave. Bottom: Last Day Before Closing 1984.
Photos ©1984IraGoodman.

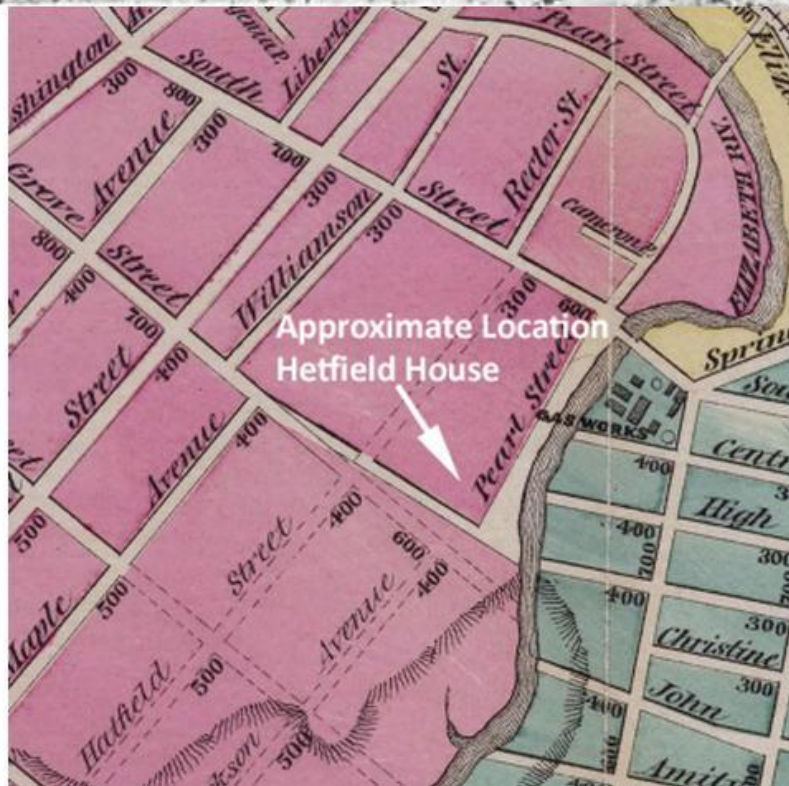
Goodman's restaurant, at 180 Elmora Ave., was opened in 1943 by Isadore and May Goodman, who were joined by their sons Julie and Irvin when they returned from World War II service. Complete with wooden pickle barrels, the modest restaurant endured for decades. Goodman's was a true community gathering place, with diverse customers, from businessmen, bankers, lawyers, politicians and notables like Phil Rizutto, along with Elmora area neighbors and those who came specifically in search of the award-winning corned beef and pastrami sandwiches. Long lunch hour lines didn't deter customers. The restaurant was known for its famous "sloppy joe" deli sandwiches and for its catering, including for film crews.

Although Goodman's was sold upon the brothers' retirement in 1984, it remains in operation today in Berkeley Heights where owner Don Parkin maintains the Goodman's traditions of a Jewish-style Deli and hospitality.

I thank Andrea Knibbs for contributing information about the Goodman business.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

3. Historic Buildings and Architecture



Hetfield House off Pearl St.

The Hetfield House, depicted in the top photo ca. 1909, was located on several acres of land at the foot of Pearl St. The approximate location is shown in this 1874 city map. It was considered the oldest house in Elizabeth but the house was entirely rebuilt in 1858 atop the original foundation, giving it a fairly modern appearance. The original

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

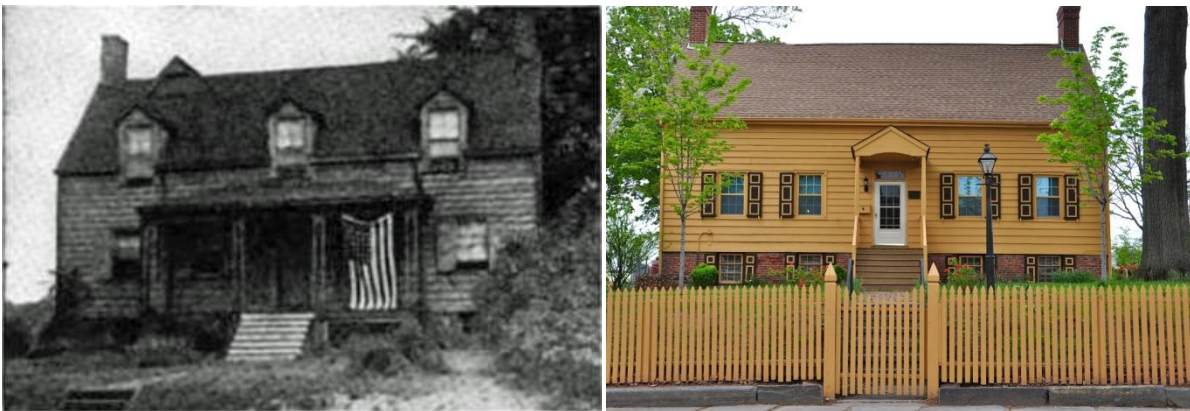
house was built about 1667 by Abraham Lubbersen who sold it to Matthias Heathfield in 1673. Early councils between the whites and the Indians are said to have been held there. Over the years the family name varied in spelling, including Hatfield and Hetfield, but the house remained in the family continuously until 1927.

In 1752 Cornelius Hatfield advertised in a newspaper "A likely parcel of Negro Boys and Girls from 12-20 years of Age, who have all had Small Pox, To be sold by Cornelius Hatfield, in Elizabeth Town." He again advertised in 1753: "To be sold very reasonable...A parcel of healthy Negro Men and Women, from between 14 and 22 Years of Age." Mr. Hatfield was a respected community leader, President of the Board of Trustees, and Elder of the Presbyterian Church.

The well in the front yard was covered with a stone well-sweep that had a round opening just large enough to allow a bucket to pass through it. The stone was dated 1762 and was said to be carved with precision by slaves who lived in a cabin near the house.

A 1762 newspaper ad for the sale of the house described it as "... a large commodious Dwelling house in which Cornelius Hetfield, Esq. now lives: Said house is two story high, has six rooms on a floor, with seven fire-places, and a very good cellar under the whole house, with a large kitchen, and a good garden, about six acres of good land, a young orchard on the same, and an excellent good living spring near the house, and is very pleasantly situated in the Town..."

The Hetfield House was destroyed by fire in 1928. The last member of the Hetfield family to own the property gave the well stone to the Union County Park Commission.



Nathaniel Bonnell House on East Jersey St. Today's Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The Nathaniel Bonnell House, 1045 East Jersey St., built before 1682, is the oldest surviving house in Elizabeth. Nathaniel Bonnell (1648-1696), born in New Haven, Connecticut, came to Elizabethtown around its founding in 1664. He was a member of the Elizabeth Associates, the incorporating organization. The land allotted to him was about six acres; he farmed an additional 16 acres in an area west of the city that became Summit. Bonnell died in Elizabethtown in 1696. He deeded the farmland west of the city to his son Nathaniel (1669/70-1736).

The 1.5-story house, seen in the left photo ca. 1900, originally had dormer windows. There are two rooms on either side of the hall passage on both floors. The plainly molded mantels remain and the staircase is original. It was a typical dwelling of its period, similar to the Governor Page house in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Bonnell House has since been restored and is now owned by The Historical Society, Elizabeth, NJ Inc.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

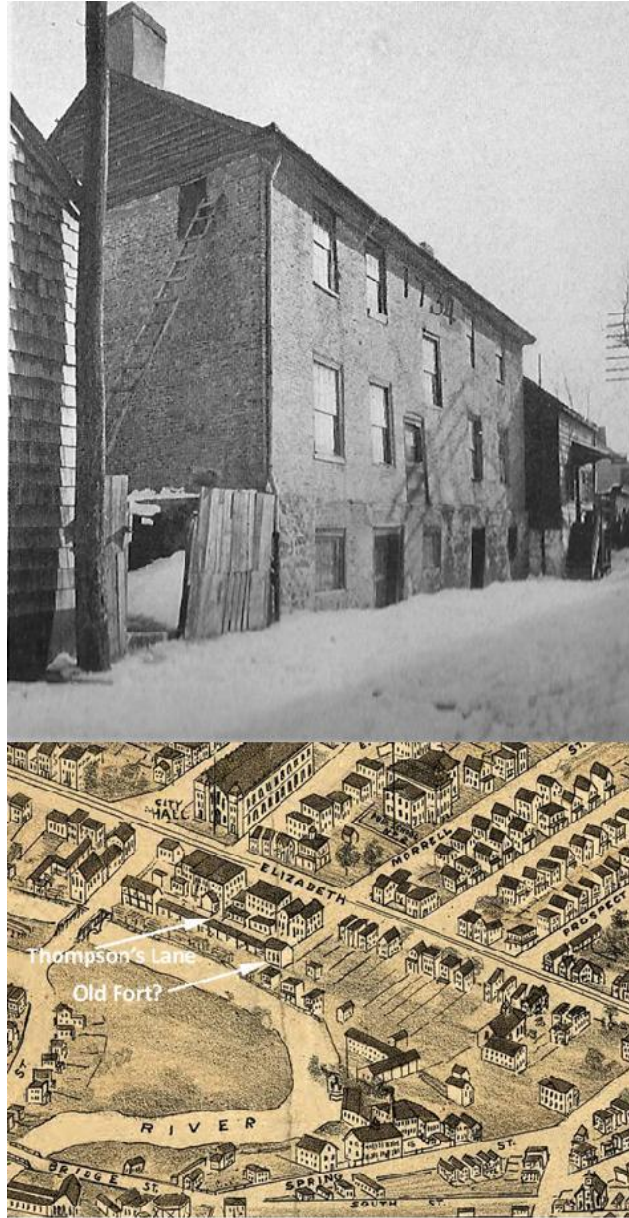


St. John's Parsonage on Pearl St. Then and Now. Today's View Courtesy of City of Elizabeth.

Another very old house still standing in the city is St. John's Parsonage at 633 Pearl St., originally built by Scottish immigrant Andrew Hamton (or Hampton) in 1696. Although enlarged in 1765, and largely rebuilt in 1817, a portion of the old structure remains. On a stone is an inscription, "A. H. M. 1696," initials for Andrew Hamton and his wife Margaret. In 1749 it was purchased by St. John's Church on Broad St. for use as a parsonage. There were about four acres of land fronting on Pearl Street and extending along the Elizabeth River.

The house was sold by St. John's in 1902. Later it was restored by the Elizabethtown Historical Foundation and donated to Union County. Today the house is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the headquarters of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



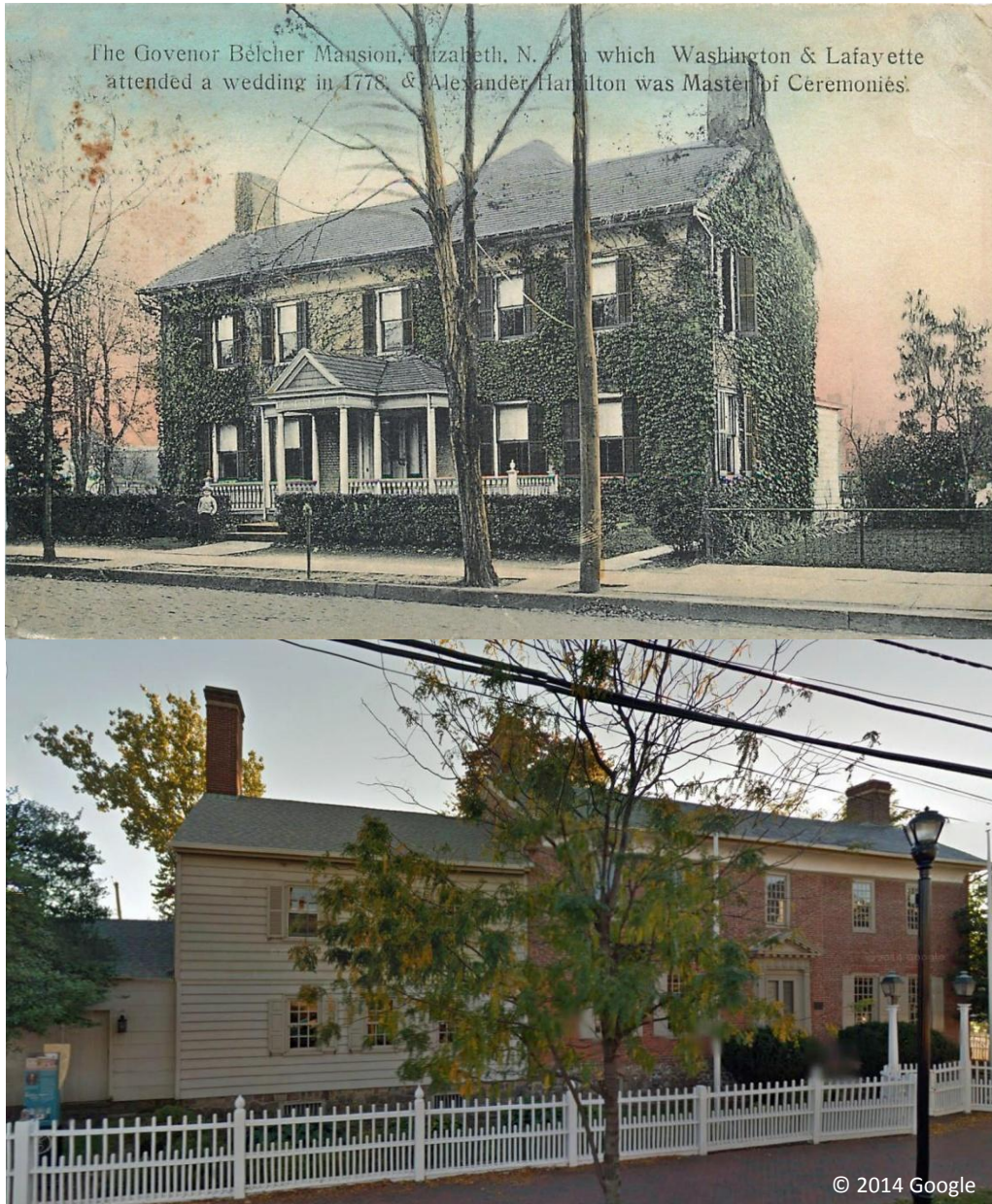
Old Fort on Thompson's Lane

The Old Fort, shown in the top photo ca. 1907, was located on Thompson's Lane near Bridge Street. The approximate location is shown in this 1898 map. The house was built in 1734 by Captain John Hunloke, a mariner. He and his wife Sarah had a daughter Ann, born in 1735. Ann married Joseph Woodruff and in 1754 they had a son, Hunloke Woodruff who became a physician. John Hunloke died in 1745 and Ann died in 1757. The house may have had some defensive purpose in the Revolutionary War. Cortlandt Van Arsdalen owned and occupied it 1785-1788; later it belonged to William Shute.

William Shute (1750-1841) served in the Revolutionary War as a captain, ensign and paymaster of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment and as a colonel and assistant commissary general in the 2nd New Jersey Battalion. After the war he opened a general store. In 1800 he kept his sailboat *Mary Ann* at the nearby dock on the river known as the Landing Place and traveled between Elizabeth and New York.

The Old Fort was demolished in 1932.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Belcher Ogden Mansion on East Jersey St. 1908 and Today

The lot for this fine house on East Jersey St. dates to 1665 and was owned by John Ogden, Jr., one of the first settlers. An Ogden family member is believed to have built the house in 1742. Jonathan Belcher, a Harvard graduate, was appointed Royal Governor of New Jersey in 1751 and lived here from that date until his death in 1757. The house was the seat of government during that time.

It was later the residence of Gov. Aaron Ogden, who entertained Lafayette here in 1824. Owner Warren R. Dix restored and beautified the house in 1899. Today the Belcher Ogden Mansion is owned by the Historical Society of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



The Old Chateau on Rahway Ave.

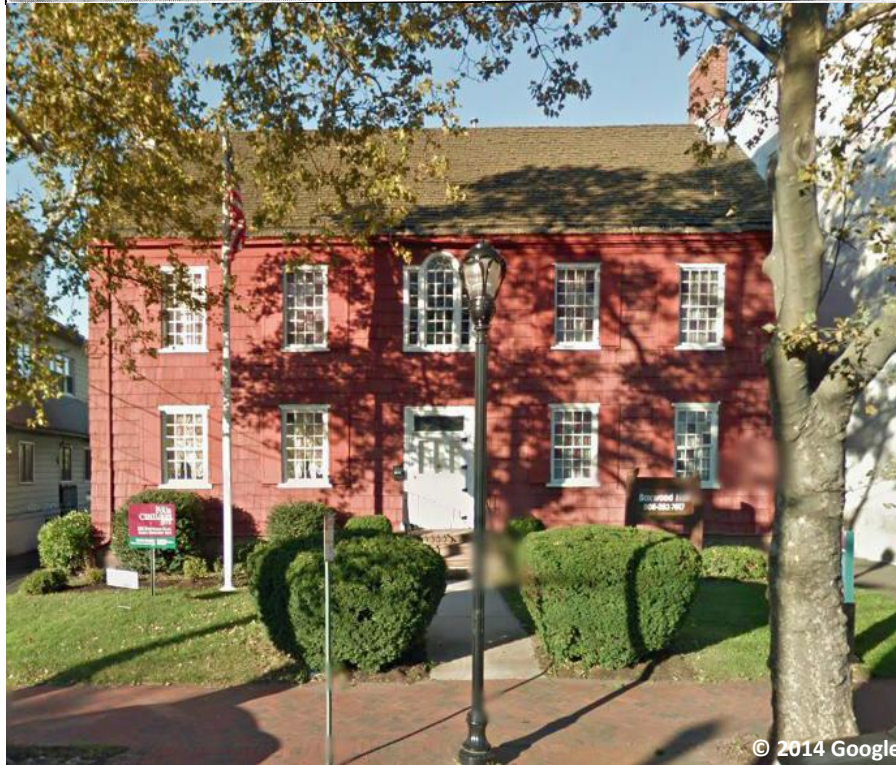
"The Old Chateau" was located at 408 Rahway Ave. near Grove St. It was built about 1760 by Cavalier Jouet, born in the West Indies in 1734. He was a vestryman at St. John's Church and one of the wealthiest men in Elizabethtown. Jouet was a Tory who helped the British in the Revolutionary War with intelligence and acting as a guide. He was arrested in 1776, narrowly escaped hanging, and was confined to Basking Ridge. His estate was confiscated and sold at public auction in 1779.

At the end of the war, Jouet went to England where he became an Episcopal priest. He returned to Elizabeth in 1792 in an unsuccessful attempt to recover the estate. He died in England in 1810. In 1845 the owner was Julius A. Fay who operated a boys' school there for many years. The Schmeider family, who were in the masonry and construction business, owned it to at least 1936.

The 18 acre property included parcels on the north and south side of Rahway Ave. The brick mansion, shown in these 1936 Library of Congress photos, was located on the south side. It was regarded as one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in New Jersey. The structure was symmetrical with the central unit flanked on both sides by identical wings. There were corner quoins, keystones above the main windows and Ionic columns at the entranceway.

In the 1960s the building was remodeled as a commercial building and today is operated by the Elizabeth Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Boudinot Mansion (Boxwood Hall) on East Jersey St. 1907 and Today

Boudinot Mansion, or Boxwood Hall, 1073 East Jersey Street, was likely built before 1763 by Mayor Samuel Woodruff. The lot was about three acres with several out-buildings, a garden and an orchard in the rear. During the Revolution this was the home of lawyer Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress, who signed the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

peace treaty with England. Boudinot was connected to several prominent New Jersey families. He was married to Hannah Stockton, sister of Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1781 the body of Rev. James Caldwell, killed by a sentinel in the Port section, was displayed on the front steps of the house for viewing by the public. In 1789 George Washington, on his way to his inauguration in New York, was met here by a Committee of Congress, and an elaborate luncheon was served.

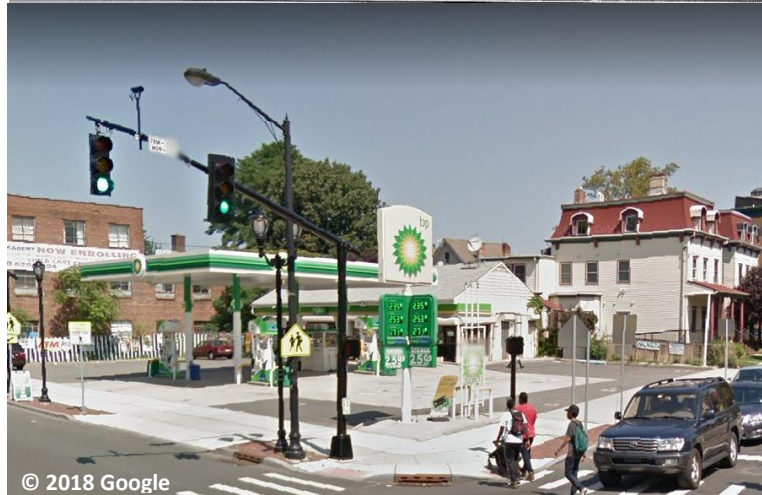
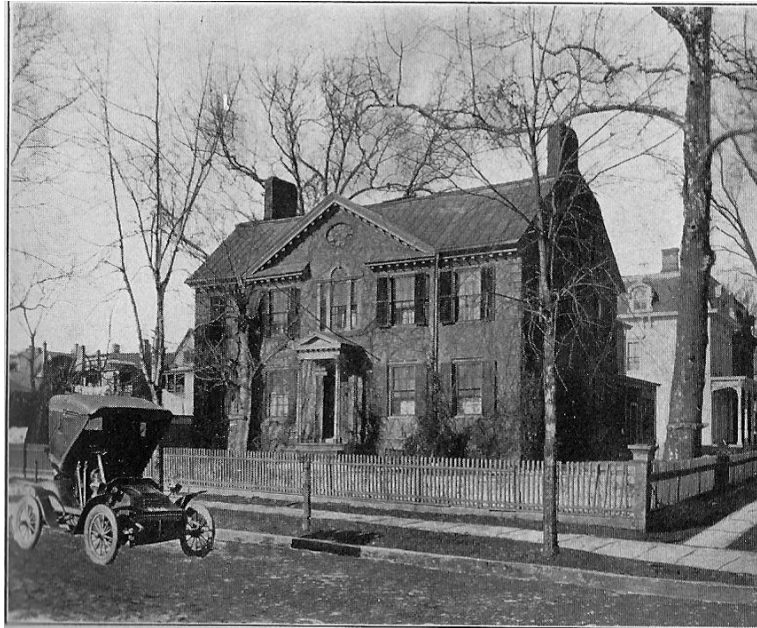
When Boudinot sold Boxwood Hall in 1795, the buyer was Jonathan Dayton, a signer of the Constitution, who was successively member of New Jersey Legislature, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, and United States Senator.

Miss Spaulding operated a young ladies' school here in the middle of the 19th century.

The house was owned in 1870 by the De Hart family, who removed two lateral wings from the original house, added two stories and a service wing in the rear, converting it to a 20 room boarding house. In 1884 it became the Home for Aged Women. The top photo of 1934 shows the house with the additional stories.

When the house was threatened with demolition in the 1930's, a group of Elizabeth residents formed the Boxwood Hall Memorial Association and bought the property, which was then deeded to the state. The house was remodeled to conform with its original 2.5 story colonial design and was opened to the public in 1943.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



General Scott House on East Jersey St.

One of the most notable residents of Elizabeth was General Winfield Scott of Mexican War (1846-1848) fame. He lived at 1105 East Jersey St., at the corner of Madison Ave., at various times from 1828 until his death in 1866. The fine home, known as the Scott House or Hampton Place, is seen in this 1907 photo. The history of the home was published in the book by Warren R. Dix, *Historic Elizabeth 1664-1914*:

"Dr. Wm. Barnet, the Revolutionary army surgeon, lived here from 1763 until his death in 1790. The house was plundered by the British in 1781, Dr. Barnet saying, "They emptied my feather beds in the streets, broke in windows, smashed my mirrors and left our pantry and storeroom department bare. I could forgive them all that, but the rascals stole from my kitchen wall the finest string of red peppers in all Elizabethtown." Later it was owned by Col. John Mayo, of Richmond, Va., whose daughter Maria became the wife of Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott, who long made his home here. The grounds extended to Jefferson Avenue and were crossed by the stream that formerly ran down through Scott Park. The stream was divided, surrounding an island shaped like Great Britain, the location of important cities being indicated by trees. This was of course all artificial."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

According to Arnold Samuelsen, the last resident may have been Dr. Horace R. Livengood, listed as living there in the 1921 City Directory. Livengood was a surgeon who served as Union County coroner 1903-1905. He later moved to 587 Westminister Ave.

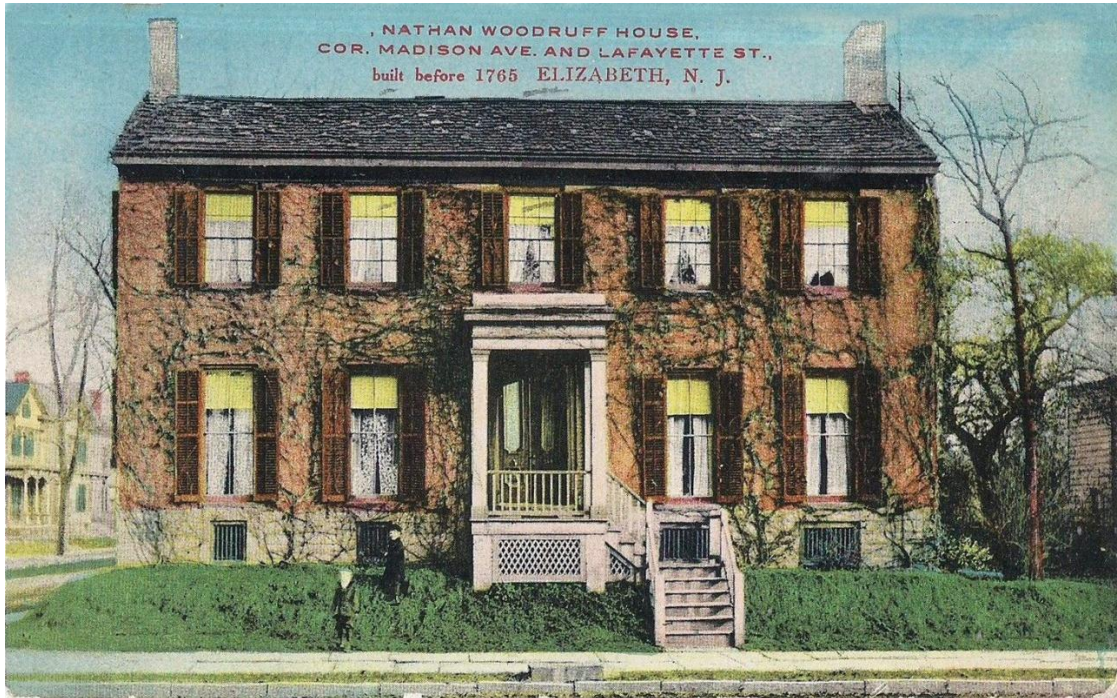
The Scott House had Revolutionary War significance and was a fine example of Federal style architecture. But neither the city nor private financial backers came forward to preserve it. The house was demolished to make way for a gas station in 1928. The ornate woodwork was removed from the parlor and used in 1935 for the construction of the "Hampton Room" in the Du Pont mansion Winterthur.

A replica of the Scott House was built in the late 1960s at 507 Westminister Ave.



Replica of Scott House on Westminister Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Nathan Woodruff House on Madison Ave. Replaced by YMCA

This 1910 postcard shows the Nathan Woodruff House at 145 Madison Ave. The vine covered, colonial style home was built before 1765 by Nathan Woodruff, who was born in 1731, one of the twelve children of Timothy Woodruff Sr. and his wife Mary Baker. Nathan died in 1801 and was buried in the First Presbyterian Church cemetery, next to his wife Jane, who died in 1758 at age twenty. Nathan had an older brother Nathaniel (1718-1777). The similarity of the names makes the search for information about Nathan difficult. One document shows Nathan verified the value of the estate, which included a slave boy, of a William Graham who died in 1777. So he may have been an officer of the probate court of Essex County. The 1789 charter of the city indicates Nathan Woodruff was the city marshal.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Woodruffs were among the earliest settlers of the city. The family had a 300 acre tract called Woodruff Farms in the northeast section. The tract was subdivided by developer Edward N. Kellogg in 1835. He named the main streets for presidents and the cross streets for women in his family. Kellogg also planned Jefferson Park and North Park, later named Kellogg Park.

The Nathan Woodruff House was razed in 1927 for the construction of the YMCA.



Cherry Lawn and Rose Hill Estates on Washington Ave.

This 1898 map of Elizabeth shows outlying areas still relatively undeveloped. Two large estates dating to the 18th century were located on the west side of Washington Avenue. The earliest owner of Rose Hill may have been Elie Joseph Trigant de la Tour, formerly lieutenant governor of Port au Prince, Haiti. He died in 1801. In 1810 the property was purchased by Joseph N.M. Gaigneron Marolles, a Frenchman from Guadeloupe. Thomas Gibbons, a wealthy Savannah planter, acquired the estate in 1815, using it at first as a summer residence to escape the heat of the South.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Cherry Lawn Estate was near the junction of Washington Avenue and the old Essex and Middlesex Turnpike, now called Lidgerwood Avenue. The house was built by John Ross about 1725, in the style of a French country house. He was the grandson of Deacon George Ross, one of the earliest settlers of Elizabethtown who owned more than 120 acres of land. John Ross, a shoemaker, was one of the Charter Aldermen and served as mayor in 1748. Slaves worked as apprentices in skilled crafts in Elizabethtown before the Civil War. Ross had an apprentice slave named Abraham Hendricks.

In 1746 daughter Mary Ross married Matthias Baldwin and they became residents of the estate. Grandson Matthias Baldwin was born there and became founder of the famous Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia. Later the property was owned by John M. Trumbull, a merchant and the son-in-law of Thomas Gibson.

Charles King purchased the property about 1841 and named it Cherry Lawn. King was born in England and was a schoolmate of Byron at Harrow. He married twice and had a large family. At Cherry Lawn, which he regarded as his country place, King entertained many prominent people including Washington Irving, Daniel Webster, and English novelist William M. Thackeray. He became president of Columbia College in 1847 and moved to New York. The estate was then sold to Louis De Casse who lived there many years.

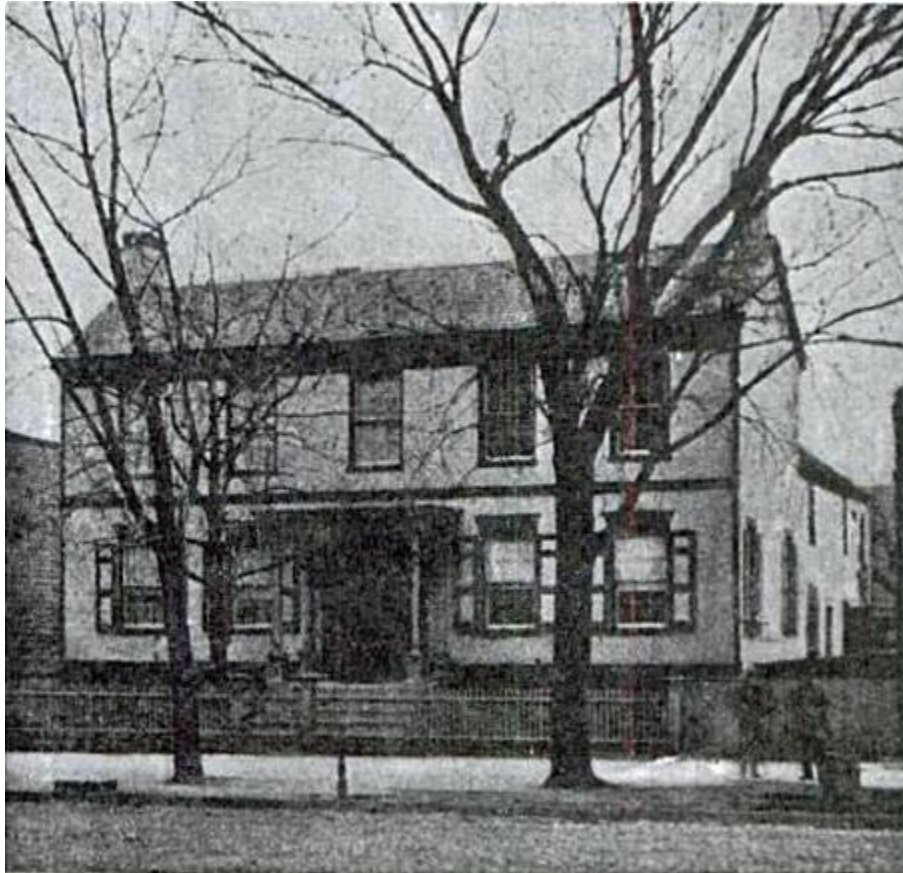
By the early 1900s the once elegant Cherry Lawn and Rose Hill residences had deteriorated and were razed to make way for new city streets and new homes.



Early Elizabeth Home Unidentified

The Elizabeth Public Library has this unidentified photo of a rustic looking stone home in their collection. The image was gifted to the library between 1890-1907 by the DAR- Boudinot Chapter. It was part of a collection of Historic Homes/Buildings in Elizabeth. It may have been built in the late 1700s or early 1800s by a person of some wealth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

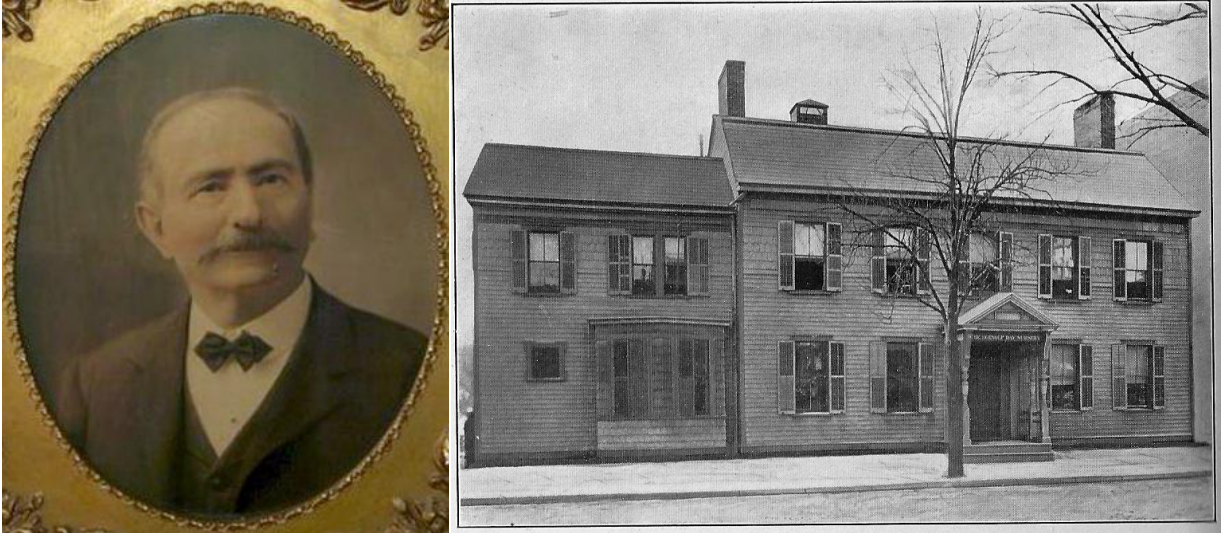


Thomas House on Elizabeth Ave.

The Thomas House, at 1178 Elizabeth Ave., was built before the Revolutionary War by Edward Thomas, a descendant of John Thomas who came to Elizabethtown about 1689. Edward had a prominent role in the history of the city and was named in the charter. He gave the land for the North End School House (Salem Ave. and North Broad St.) and was a vestryman and warden of St. John's Church. He served as commander of a regiment in the Revolutionary War, was captured at his home by the British and taken prisoner to Staten Island. Soldiers occupied the cellar of his home and cooked food in the fireplaces at either end.

Col. Thomas died in 1796 with his death partly attributed to the harsh conditions he endured while in captivity. His home was later owned by Dr. Stearns. Eventually it was demolished and replaced with a commercial building that housed Kolker's Toy store for many years.

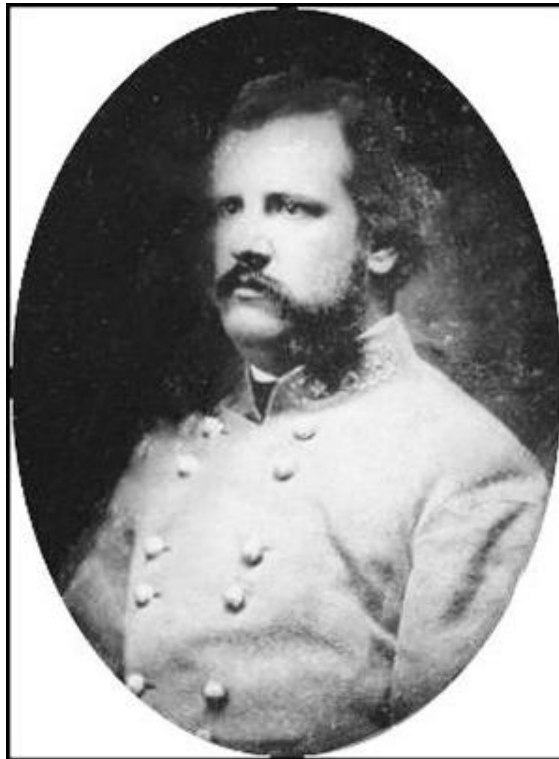
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Peter Egenolf, Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden. Right: Egenolf Day Nursery on Elizabeth Ave. 1907

Peter Egenolf (1838-1925) resided on Elizabeth Ave. in the late 19th-early 20th century period. During the Civil War he was secretary to General Winfield Scott. He was captured in the first battle of Bull Run and served time in Libby Prison. Later he was an executive of the Prudential Insurance Co. and active in civic and charitable affairs. About 1900 he donated his home at 1140 Elizabeth Ave. to the Elizabeth Day Nursery which was renamed the Egenolf Day Nursery. The home was built before 1780 and was used by Aaron Lane for his silversmith business.

Egenolf died in 1925 at age 87; his wife Lena died in 1942. The Egenolf Day Nursery moved to a building on Newark Ave. in 1972. The Elizabeth Ave. building was demolished and the site now houses a restaurant.



Archibald Gracie III (1832-1864)

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Revolutionary War era homes dotted the western end of Elizabeth Ave. until the early 20th century. The Gracie House, at no. 1123, was a large and stately home dating to at least 1764, when it was owned by Capt. Isaac Lawrence, a mariner. It was later owned by Jonathan Dayton, Elias Boudinot, and Abraham Clark, a son of the signer of the Declaration of Independence. In the 19th century it became known as the Salter House and then the Gracie House. The garden extended all the way to Dickinson St.

Archibald Gracie (1755 –1829) was a Scottish-born shipping magnate and merchant in New York City and Virginia whose spacious home, Gracie Mansion, became the residence of the Mayor of New York City. His daughter Eliza married Charles King, the president of Columbia University. King owned the Cherry Lawn estate on Washington Avenue in the 1840s before moving to New York in 1847.

Gracie's grandson was Archibald Gracie III who was born in New York in 1832 and grew up in Elizabeth, presumably at the Gracie House. He was appointed to West Point by a New Jersey congressman who happened to be his uncle. He graduated from West Point in 1854 and worked at his father's business exporting large quantities of cotton from Mobile, Alabama. He married Josephine Mayo of Virginia in 1858. She was a Southerner, but living in New Jersey at the time, and was the niece of U.S. Army General Winfield Scott whose home was at the corner of East Jersey Street and Madison Avenue.

At the onset of the Civil War he enlisted in the 11th Alabama Regiment, becoming a Major in 1861, angering his friends and relatives in the North. When he made plans to return to Elizabeth to bring his family to Alabama, a relative sent word to him that the neighbors were preparing to tar and feather him upon his arrival. Anti-Gracie locals strung up a straw effigy of Gracie, pinned with a placard which read "Traitor to his country," and set it on fire. He never returned to Elizabeth.

Gracie was a tall man with a commanding presence and in 1862 was made a Brigadier General at the age of 29. His battles took him to Kentucky and Tennessee. He was shot in the arm but recovered, joining Gen. Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard at Richmond. In December 1864, Gracie was fighting in the trenches of Petersburg, observing Union troops through his telescope when he was killed by an artillery shell. He was buried in a Confederate cemetery at Petersburg but at the end of the war, his family reburied his remains in New York's Woodlawn Cemetery, with a simple marker that does not mention his military record. His son, Archibald Gracie IV, was one of the survivors of the Titanic disaster in 1912, but died eight months later from injuries suffered in the sinking and rescue.

The Gracie House was demolished in 1913 and replaced by Gordon's Hippodrome, which later became the Liberty Theater.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Kiggins Home on Elizabeth Ave. 1889

This stately home on a large treed lot at 1085 Elizabeth Ave., near Morrell St., was the residence of Mr. Charles A. Kiggins, a book publisher. The photo shows the street paved with cobblestones. Gas lamps lit the road at night.

The home is of Italianate design, characterized by a rooftop cupola. This architectural style was popular in the 1860-1870 period. As the population grew and Elizabeth Ave. turned commercial, these homes disappeared.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Crane Family Homes on Elizabeth Ave.

This 1889 photo is of the Elizabeth Ave. homes of Mr. J. C. Crane (left at no. 1048) and Mrs. William W. Crane (right at no. 1050). The Cranes were among the first settlers of Elizabeth. Stephen Crane is recorded as one of Elizabethtown's associates in 1665. His grandson Stephen Crane was a leading patriot of New Jersey during the Revolution and a delegate to the First Continental Congress. Later descendants included Augustus S. Crane, who became publisher of the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1905. After his death in 1923, his son Frederick L. Crane took over as publisher. Robert C. Crane became editor and publisher in 1949 after his father's death and was head of the paper until 1960.

These homes have been replaced by commercial buildings, one of which is now a Hispanic church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Residence of Captain John McGowan on Elizabeth Ave. ca. 1900

Elizabeth was directly linked to the start of the Civil War by Captain John McGowan, commander of the steamship 'Star of the West', chartered to take soldiers to relieve Fort Sumter. As the unarmed ship entered Charleston harbor January 9, 1861, the shore battery of the rebels opened fire. Captain McGowan signaled for help from Fort Sumter, but none was given. The Star of the West was turned back to save the lives of the crew, which act of Captain McGowan's the government approved. Thus his ship received the first shots fired in the Civil War. He was engaged in service throughout the war, retiring in 1882 after 53 years service. McGowan died in 1891 in Elizabeth and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside.

McGowan lived in one of the oldest homes in Elizabeth, that of Hezekiah Hibbins at 1027 Elizabeth Ave., which dates to 1766 or earlier (left photo). A description of the Elizabeth Ave. home and of life in Elizabeth at the time is in a book written by McGowan's daughter Ellen McGowan Biddle titled "Recollections" (1922):

"It was an old Colonial house built early in 1700, set rather high on a terrace with great elms in front, which I learned to love; the large pillars and the wide stoop greatly impressed me. The hall was about twelve feet wide with an unusually beautiful staircase, which later I also loved. The two great square parlors (to please my sisters) had been thrown into one large drawing room, with arch and fluted columns in the center where the mahogany doors had been. In the front of the room was an exquisite old white marble mantelpiece, on which stood rare old Chinese vases, and small bronze pieces. My Mother's Father, William Caldwell, having been a sailor man and merchant, trading in his own ship 'The Lovely Matilda,' between England, China and Philadelphia, had brought to his home many rare and beautiful things.

There was usually a bright fire of anthracite coal burning in the grate, while a large open fireplace for wood was in the back of the room, back of the pillars where my dear Mother always sat of an evening, with her lacework or embroidery, while my sisters entertained their guests in the front of the room. The carpet was of dark red velvet and the furniture was of old mahogany, including four high back Sheraton chairs, which my great-grandfather bought at the sale of General Washington's furniture held in Philadelphia when the Capitol was removed to Washington.

There were over three acres of ground around the house, all kinds of fruit, grapes and berries; the large English gooseberry was my delight, never having seen them before. There was a large barn with horse and "Carry All," a fine cow and chickens, and Mother used to call every one of us to help drive in the little chickens if she saw a cloud in the sky. She was a novice in the country as well as her children.

The wing was on the left side of the house as it faced the street and stood back about thirty feet ; the dining room

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

was here; it had three large windows and door opening on the front garden, the beds of which were outlined with old box. The chief piece of furniture to my mind was a mahogany table that had belonged to my grandparents, my Father's Mother and Father, three could sit at each end, four on each side. Then there was a side table the same size as the ends of the big one, which could be placed or added when necessary.

The kitchen was a large square room, and the great big oven was there, which was always a sort of mystery or hiding place to me. The parrot's cage always hung there. We had her for over thirty years, but I think she was young when Father brought her to us from Aspinwall in 1849. A bunch of bananas always hung near her cage, Father brought them, also oranges and pineapples, when in season, by the barrel. Also all kinds of West India preserves, guava jellies, pomegranates, and all kinds of fruits and rare plants. Outside the kitchen was the laundry, and then the woodhouse, where the tools were kept, and where we loved to play on a wet day when we could not be out.

It did not take long for my parents to become known in all classes in the town ; Mother always, until the day of her death, supplied the hospital and the neighboring poor from her garden, and in the winter soups and bread were made and regularly supplied. My Father was always ready to talk with the workingmen when they would stop on seeing him in the garden, and give advice when asked for. We had no Bolshevicki at that time, and although we had many tramps after the Civil War they were not vicious and ready to tear down the Government.

I was particularly proud of my Father when the fireman's parade took place, which was generally in the springtime; the house would be decorated with flags and Father in his uniform would stand out on the stoop and salute them as they passed."

The McGowan home was razed years ago and replaced by a commercial building.



Moses Ogden House on Elizabeth Ave.

This two-story stone mansion at 927 Elizabeth Ave., near the corner of Reid St., was built in 1759 by Moses Ogden (1723-1768), one of the early trustees of the First Presbyterian Church. His son Moses Ogden III was an Ensign in the Revolutionary War. His band of twelve militiamen engaged the British when they marched to the Cross Roads (Elizabeth Ave. and Division St.) on June 7, 1780. Ogden, only 19 years old, fired the shot that knocked Gen. Thomas Sterling off his horse, severely wounding him. Ogden was killed in the battle at Connecticut Farms that afternoon. He was buried in the First Presbyterian Church cemetery.

The Moses Ogden House was later known as the Angus House, having been occupied by James W. Angus, a leading citizen, from 1848 to his death in 1888. Angus served as a Commissary of the Army in the Mexican War, appointed

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

by Gen. Winfield Scott, also an Elizabeth resident. The house was demolished in 1921 and replaced by a commercial building with retail stores.



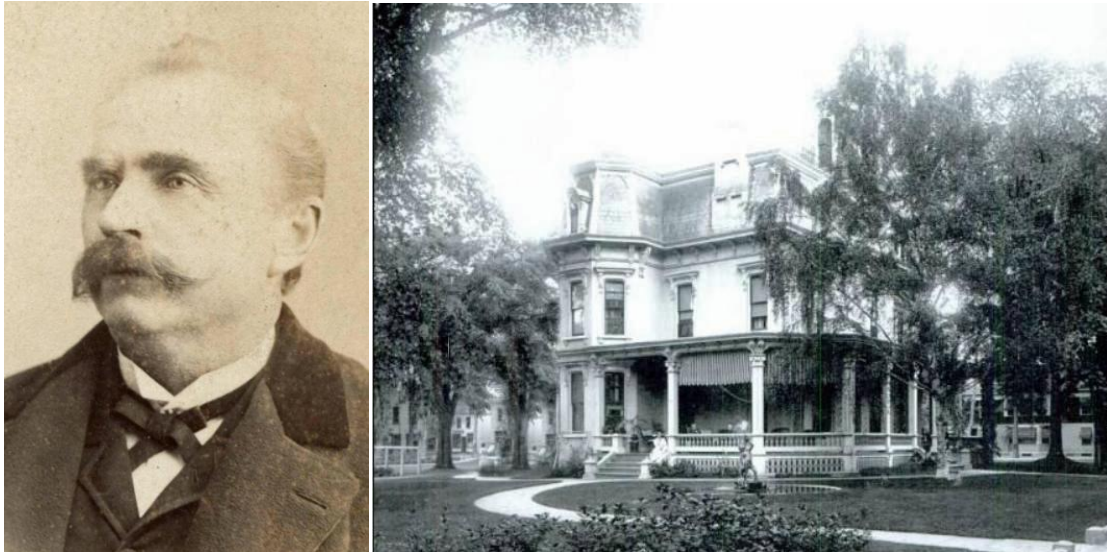
Knauer Home on Elizabeth Ave. 1907

Dr. George Knauer purchased this home after receiving a medical degree from New York University in 1909. The wing on the left had a separate entrance and was used for his medical practice. The circular room was the waiting room for patients.

The Victorian home had a mansard style roof, wrap around front porch, beautiful landscaping, a greenhouse in the backyard along with a tile lined goldfish pond shaded by a weeping willow tree. I lived behind this home on South St. and remember when it was demolished to make way for the parking lot in the mid-1950s.

Dr. Knauer, a surgeon, practiced at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Alexian Brothers, where he was chief of staff. He moved to Coolidge Road and died in 1957 at age 71. He had two sons, George Jr. and Warren, who also became doctors, practicing locally in obstetrics and oncology respectively. They passed away in recent years.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: George Neureiter. Right: Proxy Representation of Neureiter Home on Elizabeth Ave.

Elizabeth Ave. had several impressive residences in the 19th century, a few of which survived into the 20th century. The home of businessman George Neureiter (1843-1923) was at 423 Elizabeth Ave. near Fourth St. Neureiter, an Austrian immigrant, was president of Neureiter & Horre Inc., suppliers of coal and masonry materials. The business was located at 336 East Jersey St.

The 1920 census indicates George Neureiter and his wife Eva were living in their Elizabeth Ave. home with servant Mary Menzies, from Scotland.

This home, dating to 1889 or earlier, was on a large plot extending all the way in the back to Marshall St. Photos of the home are not available but the Sanborn map showing the site plan provided some clues. I found what I believe is a similar looking Victorian home in upstate New York, pictured on the right. The Neureiter home was demolished years ago and replaced by a commercial building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Chetwood House on East Jersey St.

The Chetwood House, 1155 East Jersey St., was built in the early 1800s by William Chetwood. He was born in Elizabeth in 1769 and graduated from Princeton in 1792. He served in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 as a major of the militia. Chetwood practiced law in the city and served as a member of the State Council in 1816 and as a Congressional representative 1836-1837. He was mayor 1839-1841. He died in 1857 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

The Chetwood House, of brick construction, was one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the country. Elements of this style include the entry portico supported by rounded columns, the cornice line of the main roof, and the pediment atop the left wing, which has the appearance of a Greek temple. The house was

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demolished about 1928 to make way for the Elizabeth Carteret Hotel. Today's view shows the hotel which has been converted to apartments for senior citizens.

Chetwood was the son of John Chetwood, born in 1734. He was a lawyer and a justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey 1788-1797. John Chetwood built a brick house at 744-746 Pearl St. in 1770. This house was also called the Chetwood House. John Chetwood died in 1806.



Magie House on Elmora Ave. 1936 Photos at Library of Congress.

The Magie family were early settlers in Elmora; an old map shows property along Elmora Ave. labeled as "Magie Town". The property was subdivided to family members and Joel O. Magie built this home at the corner of Elmora Ave. and Livingston Road in 1850. The home was a 2-story center hall colonial with eight rooms, frame construction and clapboard siding. The design reflected the Greek Revival architectural style. Many Magie family members were buried at the First Presbyterian Church cemetery but Joel Magie's grave is not located there. The Magie House was razed in 1950 for the construction of the Jewish Educational Center.

Arnold Samuelsen said "This property, which was part of Union Township at that time, was given by Joel W. Magie (1814-1879) to his brother John Ogden Magie (1827-), according to a statement by Mrs. Leary on the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Leary is John O. Magie's daughter Sally Meeker Magie (1871-1962), the wife of William Thomas Leary. The transfer of the property probably took place before 1870 because Joel W. Magie was living at 125 W. Grand St. in the 1870 census. John O. Magie, also known as J.O. Magie, was quite prosperous. He

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

listed his net worth in 1870 as \$125,000 in real estate and \$25,000 in personal property. The 1859 city directory lists him as a carpet dealer at 169 Broad St. A few years later he is a partner with W.H. DeHart in Magie & DeHart, millinery and fancy goods, 167 Broad St., and W.E. Townley in Magie & Townley, dry goods, at 169 Broad St. In 1866 he reported income of \$1633 and paid federal taxes of \$81.65. His home is listed as W. Elizabeth, apparently the name for what was to become the Elmora section. He also showed some of his prize cattle at shows at Madison Square Garden and Waverly Fairgrounds in Newark, according to stories in the New York Times in the 1890's. Overall, the Magie family is quite large. Joel and John were among 11 children of John Magie (1784-1862) and Mary Searing (1785-1867). The last-named John Magie was one of 15 siblings, including Rev. David Magie, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church for 45 years before he died in 1865. One of Rev. Magie's children was William J. Magie, who served 20 years on the state Supreme Court, the last three (1897-1900) as chief justice."



Wilcox House on Magie Ave. 1936 Photos at Library of Congress.

The Wilcox family owned property in Elmora going back to 1738. In 1843 Elihu Wilcox married Ann Eliza Ross. Their daughter Lydia Ross died in 1846 at age one and is buried in the First Presbyterian Church cemetery. Elihu's mother Elizabeth died in 1836 at 78 years; his father James died in 1843 at 80 years. The parents are also buried in the First Presbyterian Church cemetery. In 1850 Elihu built a home on the site that became known as 1000 Magie Ave. The main part of the house is a 2.5-story center hall colonial with frame construction and clapboard siding. The 1.5-story wing with front porch was built with materials from the home of his father who occupied the property earlier. The style resembles Greek Revival architecture and shares some design elements with the Magie House at 330 Elmora Ave., also built in 1850. Elihu hired Brandt Crane for the construction of his home, paying him \$500 for his labor and providing his own materials.

The historic Wilcox House remains as a residence today in good condition.

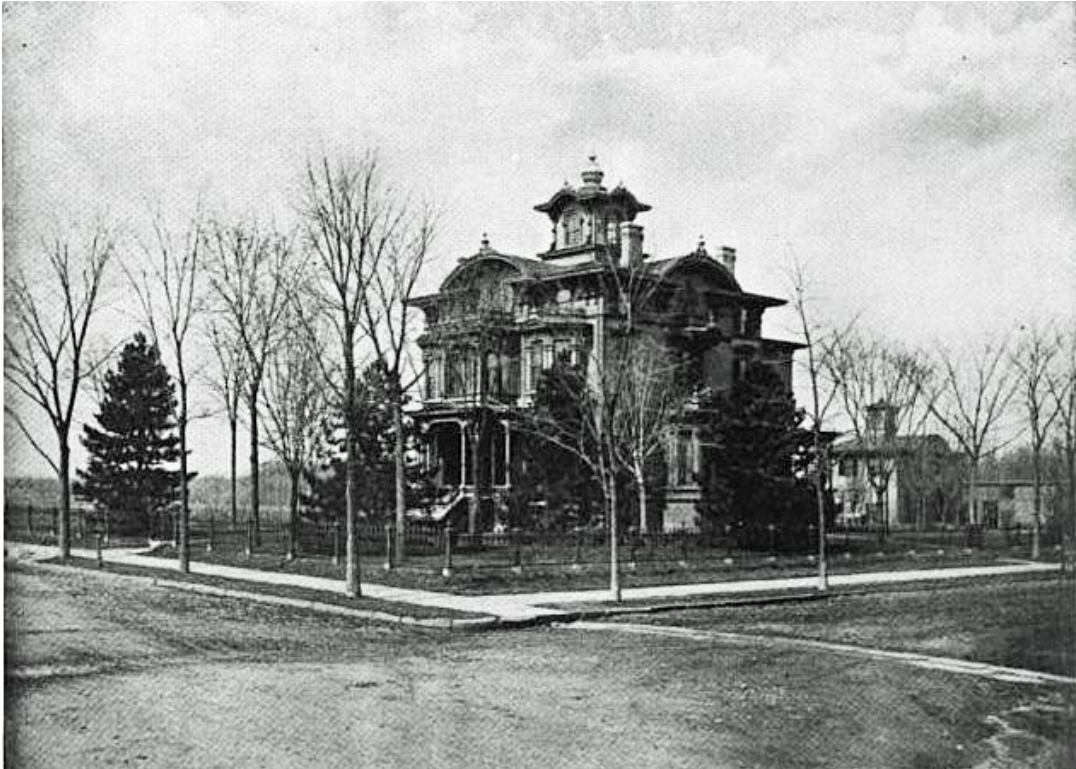
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



De Hart House on Rahway Ave.

The De Hart House stood at the northwest corner of Rahway Ave. and Cherry St. The colonial style home was built earlier by Col. Jacob De Hart or his son John. John De Hart was a lawyer, a member of the Continental Congress, Mayor of Elizabethtown, and was named first Chief Justice of New Jersey, a position which he declined. The house may have been used by British soldiers during the Revolution. De Hart died at home in 1795 and is buried in St. John's Church cemetery. The house was damaged by fire in 1931 and razed in 1932. The site today is occupied by the Union County Courthouse Cherry Street Annex.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



J. Madison Watson Home on Rahway Ave. 1889

Prof. J. Madison Watson (1827-1900) was a prominent citizen of Elizabeth in the 19th century. He studied law but made his fortune publishing school books known as Watson's primers, spellers and readers. He built a magnificent Italianate style mansion, with elaborate ornamentation and topped with a cupola, on a large plot at Rahway Avenue and Bayway. The Italianate style was popular in the 1845-1870 period in the U.S. This home probably dates to 1860-1870.

Watson was an ardent temperance advocate and opponent of race tracks in New Jersey. This effort led to the closure of the New Jersey Jockey Club race track in Elizabeth in 1894.

He was declared insane by Judge McCormick in 1895 and removed to the Morris Plains Asylum. He lived off royalties from his books and died at his home in 1900.

The 1919 City Directory listed his widow Emma H. Watson still living at the home at 701 Rahway Ave. It was later demolished and replaced with a gas station.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

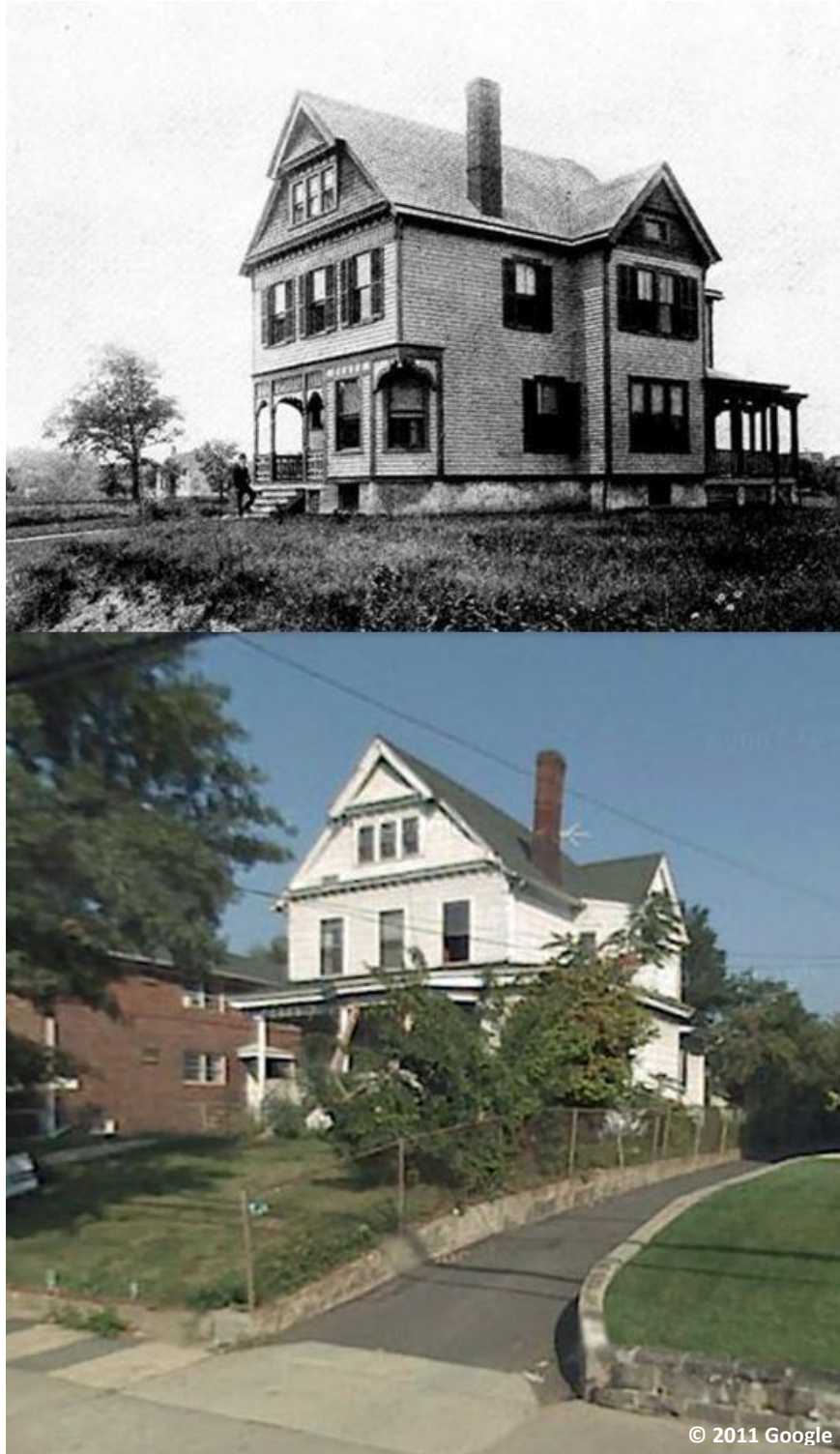


Townsend Home on Rahway Ave. 1889

The Greek Revival style home of Charles Townsend was at 202 Rahway Ave. at the corner of South St. The home was demolished after 1966 to make way for the Acme supermarket. The block between South St. and Dehart Place had several elegant homes that did not survive the commercialization of Rahway Ave.

Arnold Samuelsen reported "Charles Townsend previously lived at 1019 East Jersey St., and apparently moved to 202 Rahway Ave. after the death of his first wife Mary Evelyn Mulligan in 1888. Census records say he was in the glue business in New York. The 1019 East Jersey St. house was later occupied by shipping magnate Calvin B. Orcutt and the John F. Martin Funeral Home. Earlier occupants of 202 Rahway Ave. were, in 1876, James S. Brownson, who was in the real estate business in New York, and in 1881 and 1883, at least, New York-born Charles A. Farnham (1843-1929) a naval veteran of the Civil War who was a member of the New York stock exchange for 40 years. He was living in Hartford, Conn., at the time of his death."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Crane Home on Rahway Ave.

Augustus S. Crane lived at 227 Rahway Ave., the home in the top photo of 1889. He went to work as an office boy at the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1875 and became publisher in 1903. He died at age 64 in 1923 and was succeeded at the newspaper by his son Frederick L. Crane. The remodeled home was well maintained for many years but was recently demolished, presumably to build an apartment or commercial building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

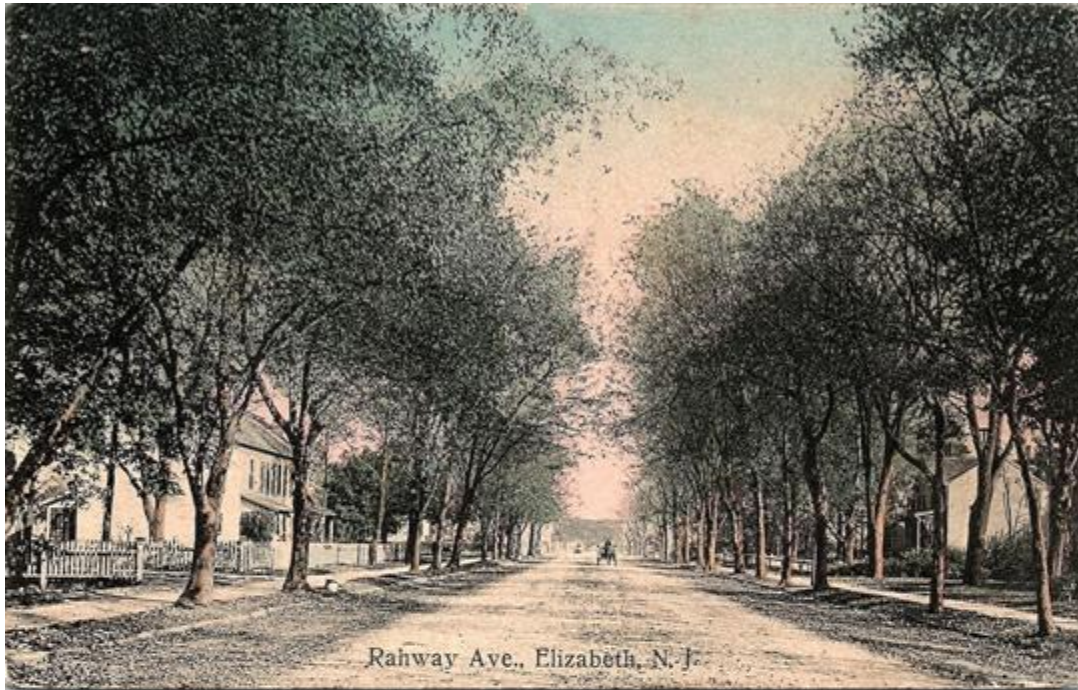


Rahway Ave. Home 1909

Rahway Avenue was a nice residential street in this vintage photo postcard of the home at no. 245. The 1919 City Directory listed the residents as Henry A. Volker, a printing compositor, and Henry D. Walls, an inspector for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Herbert W. Volker, a dentist, was living there in 1964.

The two-family home remains today in good condition with the front porch now enclosed. Many of the fine homes along Rahway Ave. have been replaced by apartment buildings and commercial businesses.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Rahway Ave. Then and Now

This rare vintage postcard shows Rahway Ave. as a tree-lined, quiet residential street in the early 1900s. The view is to the east with the PRR stone arch bridge in the background.

The view today has residences replaced by commercial buildings. The Union County Courthouse complex is in the background.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Greek Revival Style Home on East Jersey St.

One of the last residential homes in the central business district is at 1120 East Jersey St., next door to the Third Presbyterian Church. The triangular pediment in the front is characteristic of the Greek Revival architectural style. The cross gable roof on the side gives added floor space on the third floor, important for a home on a narrow city lot. The top photo is from 1889 when the home was owned by the Crouthers family.

Arnold Samuelsen reported "The address 1120 East Jersey St. first appears in city directories in 1890 when it is the residence of John Crouthers (1838-), a painter, and his wife Anna J. Crouthers (1852-1930), a physician. Their previous address was 1026 East Grand St. In her obituary in the New York Times Jan. 3, 1930, Dr. Crouthers is described as one of the first women physicians in this part of the country. She was joined in her practice for a while by Josephine Ida Burpeau, an 1885 graduate of New York Medical College and Hospital for Women. Dr. Crouthers

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

was the daughter of Ezekial Ira Tucker and Phebe Meeker Garthwaite of Elizabeth and a great-granddaughter of two Revolutionary War soldiers, Benjamin Woodruff and of Capt. William Garthwaite, both of Elizabethtown. There appears to have been two other women physicians, besides Drs. Crouthers and Burpeau, in Elizabeth in 1888 -- Eleanor Galt, 130 Jefferson Ave. and Johanna Gaston Leary, 1155 Washington."



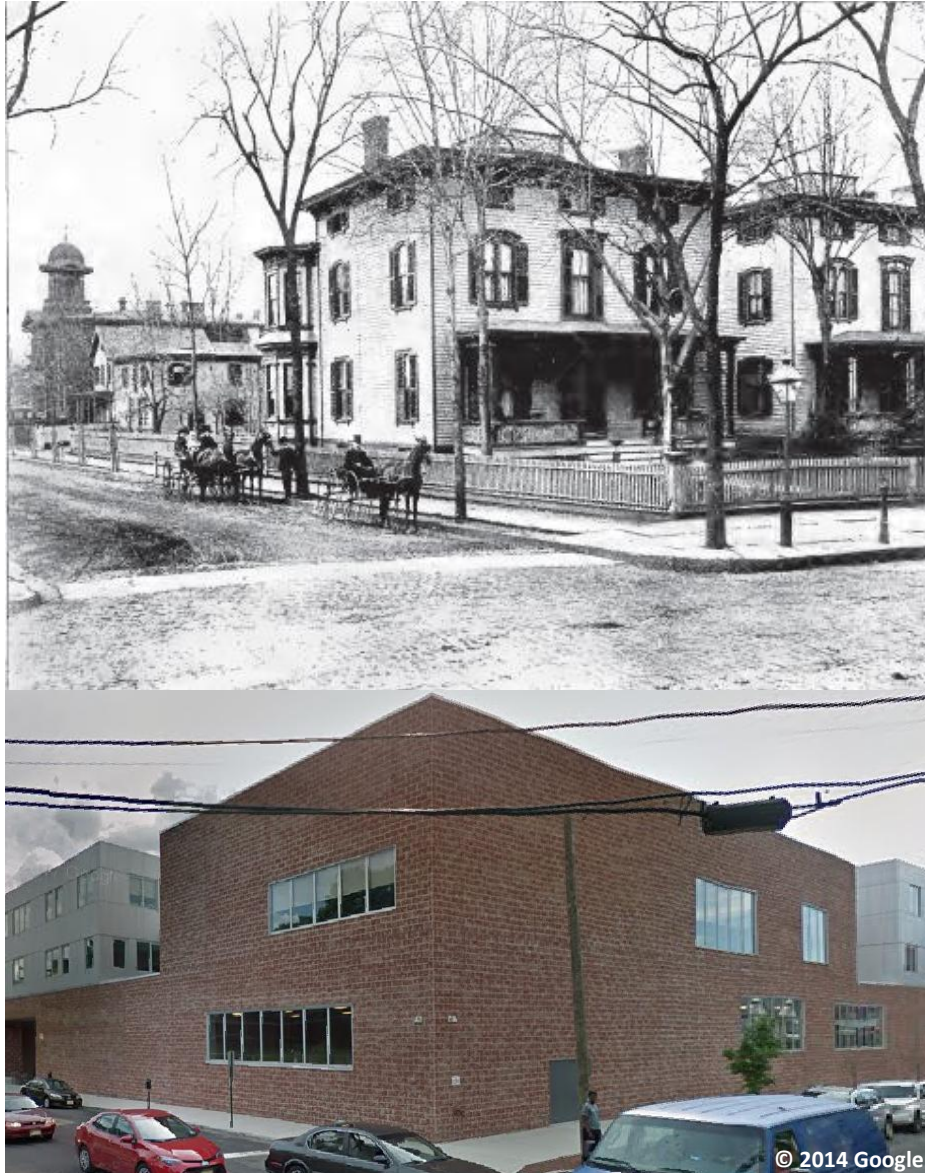
YWCA on East Jersey St.

The YWCA building at 1129-1131 East Jersey St., next to the Central Baptist Church, dates to 1889 or earlier. The original owner of the home is unknown. The architecture is classic Second Empire, with a windowed mansard roof, decorative supports under the eaves, and tall, narrow windows. The mansard roof provided a bonus third floor for large families or live in servants.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Bayley Post, assistant rector of the nearby Christ Church on East Scott Place, was living there in 1896. He died in 1905. George H. Copeland, a Princeton graduate and chemist at the Merck Co. in Rahway, lived there in 1916.

In 1920 the YWCA was organized and acquired the building. G. Godfrey Poggi, Elizabeth's leading architect, designed a two-story addition for the rear. The building is still in use today by the YWCA of Eastern Union County, providing emergency shelter, counseling, a children's program, and domestic violence services for Union County.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

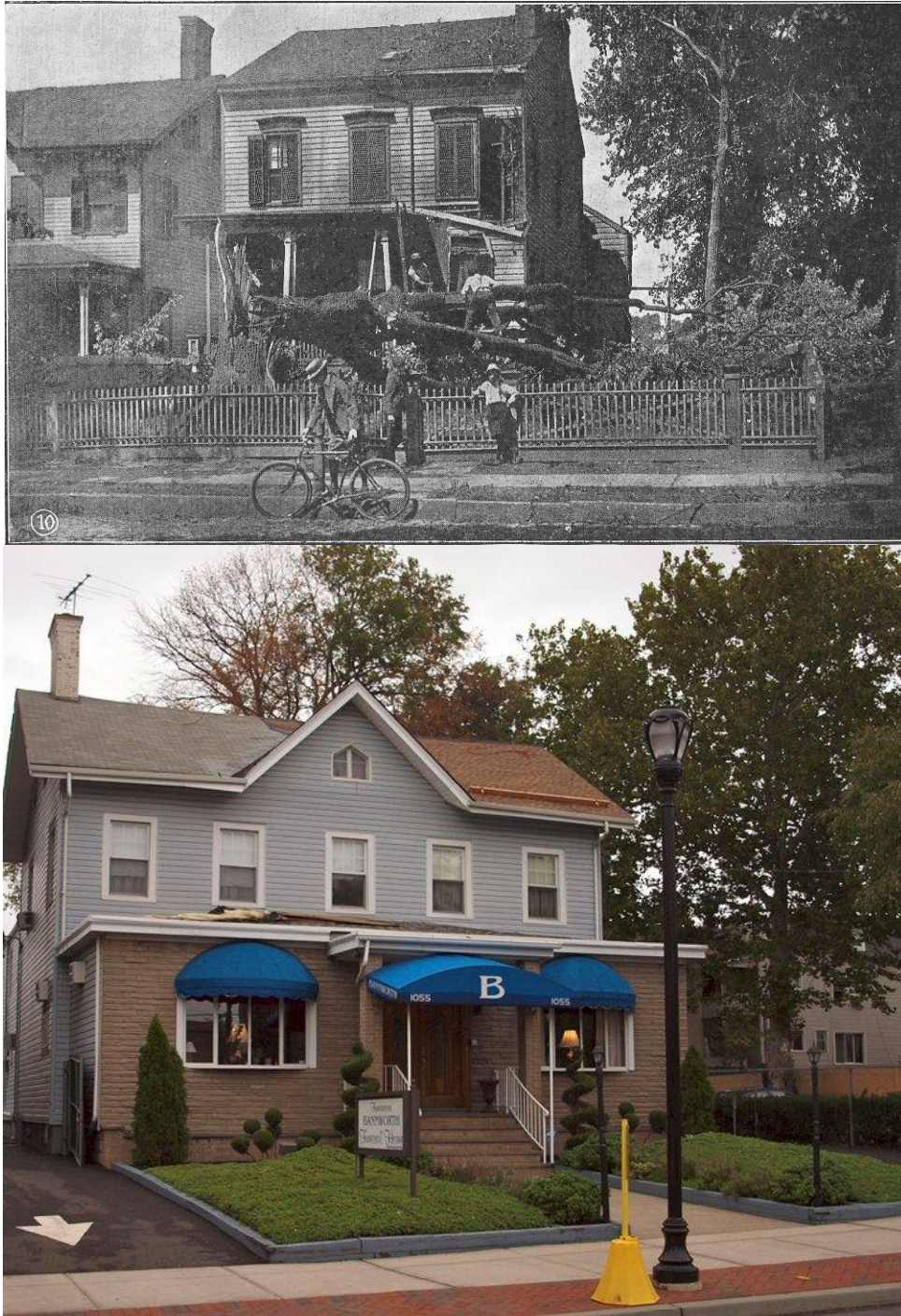


Victorian Homes on East Jersey St. Replaced by New High School

This photo is an 1889 view of the Victorian home of John C. Rankin, Jr. It was located at 1060 East Jersey St. at the corner of Morrell St. The Morrell St. School is on the left. Rankin served as Mayor from 1890-1898. The home on the right, very similar to the Rankin home, was at 1062 East Jersey St. Mayor Victor Mravlag was living there in 1919.

A new academic high school, named after Elizabeth educator and athletic coach Frank J. Cicarell, is at the site today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

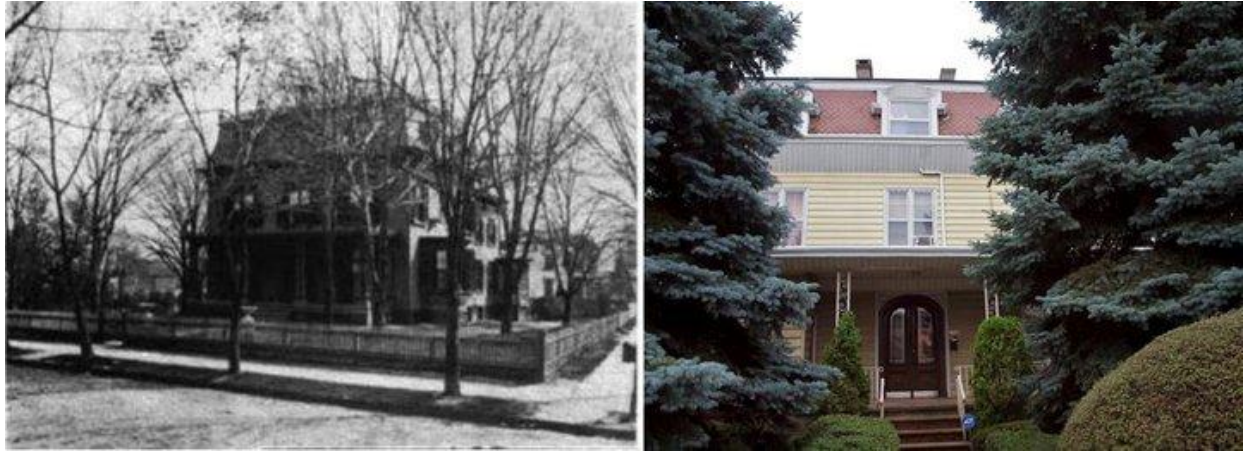


Montfort Home on East Jersey St. Damaged by Tornado of 1899. Today's Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The home and office of Dr. Robert J Montfort, 1051 East Jersey St., in the center of the top photo, was damaged by a tornado that swirled through the center of Elizabeth on August 3, 1899. Churches, commercial buildings and homes were hit, with total damage estimated at \$85,000, equivalent to \$2.2 million today.

Today's view shows the home on the left became the Bannworth Funeral Home, established by Leo Bannworth. Dr. Montfort's home is now a parking lot. On the right is the historic Bonnell House.

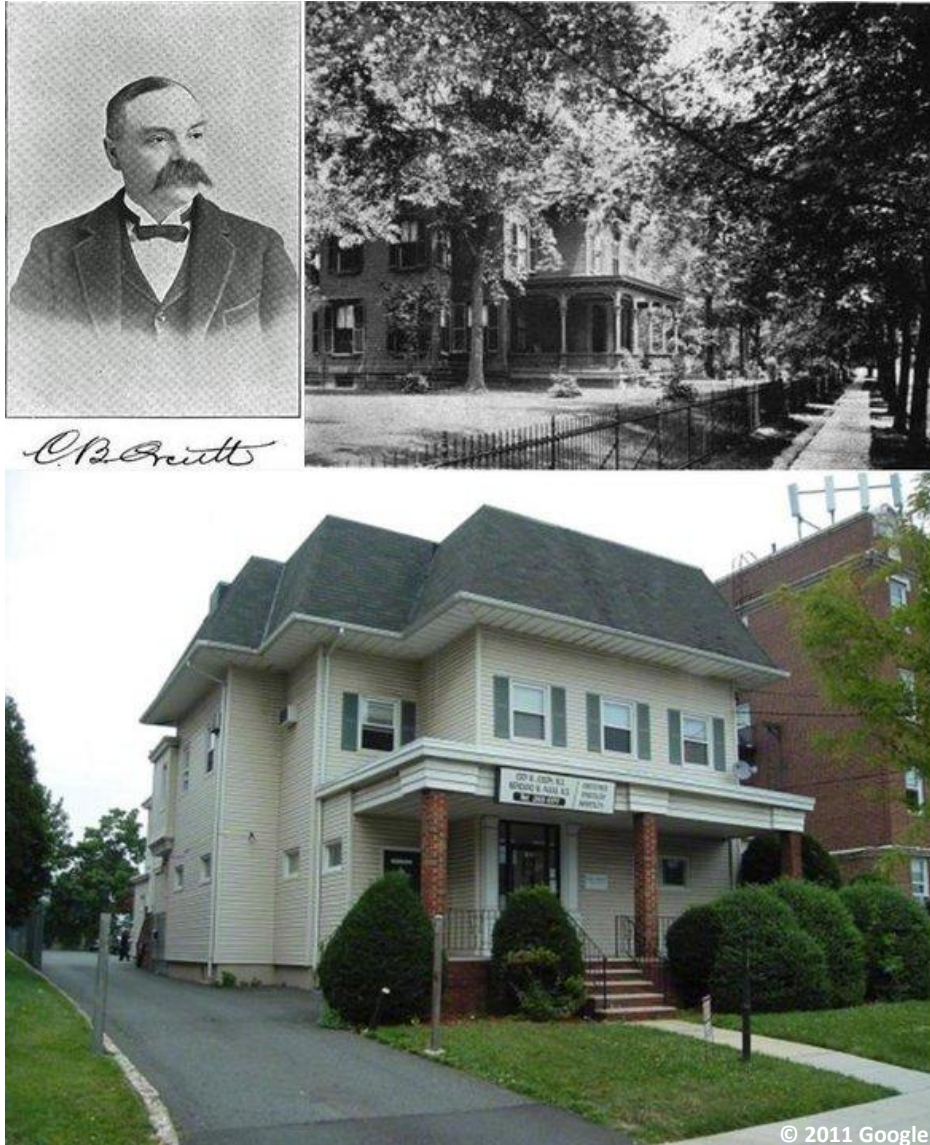
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Blake Home on East Jersey St. 1889 and Today. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

On the right is a photo of a beautiful old home on East Jersey St., at the corner of Prospect St., which was once the home of Mr. F.M. Blake. It is remarkable that this home is still standing on a treed lot on a busy thoroughfare close to Route 1/9. The wooden eaves have been covered up with vinyl, dull looking siding has replaced the shingles and the window adornments are gone, but overall this home remains a fine example of Elizabeth's golden age of Victorian architecture in the late 19th century.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Frederick Martin Blake of Indianapolis, Ind., married Fefe Zschwetzke, the only child of William Zschwetzke and the late Augusta, on Apr. 20, 1882 at Christ Episcopal Church, Elizabeth, according to a marriage announcement in the New York Times. The 1880 census lists William Zschwetzke, a retired architect, and wife Augusta (both born in Prussia) and daughter Sophia (who later goes by the name of Fefe, born in N.Y. 1861) living at 1024 E. Jersey St. City directories in the late 1880's and 1890's show Frederick M. Blake living at that address and working in New York in real estate. The 1900 census lists him and wife Fefe living there with son William, 18, and daughter Fefe, 12, a boarder and three live-in servants. The 1910 census has the family living at 337 W. 85th st. in Manhattan."



Orcutt Home on East Jersey St.

In the late 19th century, some of the wealthiest residents lived on East Jersey St. Calvin B. Orcutt was president of the Newport News Shipbuilding Co. and of the Baltimore & Ohio Coal Co. He lived at 1019 East Jersey St. for many years, serving the community as president of the local YMCA and as an elder in the Second Presbyterian Church. He died in 1911. The home has been remodeled and is used as a medical office today.

Arnold Samuelson: "This house has connections to two other families discussed here recently. Helen Orcutt, a daughter of Calvin B. and Harriet Orcutt, married Frank A. English, an attorney, about 1917. They lived with Helen's widowed mother at 1019 East Jersey St. for the early years of their marriage before moving to 700 Westminster Ave. some time before 1930. Harriet Orcutt moved to 21 Dewitt Road before 1930 and died there in 1936 at the age of 85. John Francis Martin, after putting up his new building at East Jersey and Jefferson, moved his funeral home to 1019 East Jersey. His son, John F. Martin Jr., later ran the funeral parlor. It was in business until 1951, at least."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Dimock Mansion on South Broad St. Later Battin High School ca. 1889.

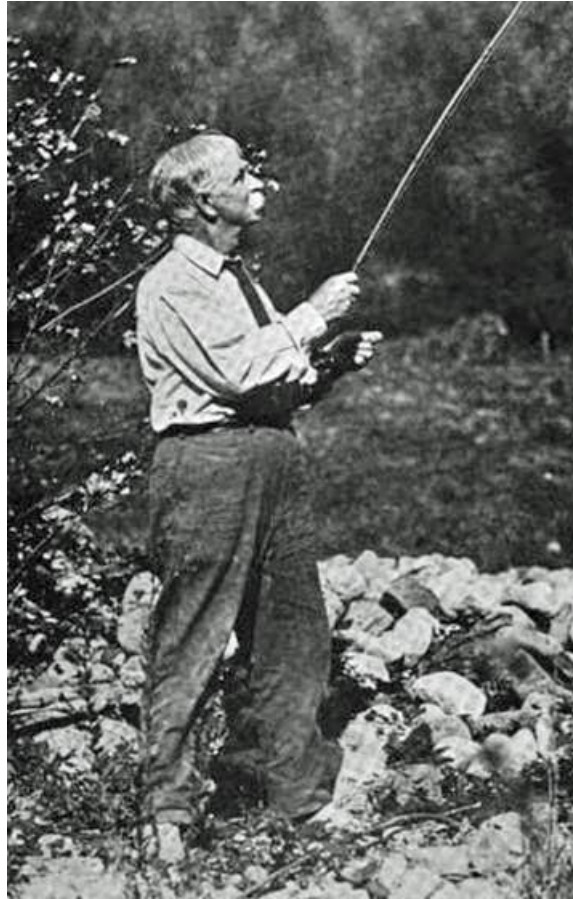
The Quality Hill development was built in the late 1860s-early 1870s by Anthony W. Dimock (see biography below) who made his fortune trading gold on Wall St. Dimock bought a 100-acre farm in the southern section of Elizabeth and laid out a grid of streets, including the extension of South Broad St. The approximate bounds were: on the north by South St., on the west by Grier Ave., on the south by Garden St. and on the east by Maple and Williamson Streets. The city borrowed money, straining finances, to install streets, sidewalks and utility lines.

Dimock attracted investors by building a magnificent brownstone mansion as his home at the corner of South Broad and South Streets, one of the highest points in the city. It cost \$250,000, equivalent to \$4.7 million today and was the largest private residence in New Jersey. The mansion represented the Italianate architectural style; note the characteristic windowed cupola on the roof, which provided great views of the city and ventilation in summertime.

Dimock built several hundred dwellings on speculation, costing from \$5,000 to \$150,000, equivalent to \$90,000 to \$2.7 million today. The wealthiest buyers, businessmen who commuted to work in New York City, were members of a clubhouse that had a stable for horses and carriages.

The business panic of 1873 ruined Dimock financially. Joseph Battin bought Dimock's mansion and later donated it to the city as a high school in 1889. The expensive homes went unsold for years and some were rented for just \$30 a month. The city was burdened with heavy debt due to the cost of the infrastructure. Home assessments had to be lowered, reducing tax revenue. But by 1889 most of the empty homes and remaining lots were sold. The city finally paid off its debt in the early 1920s. Vice president Cal Coolidge came to mark this occasion with city officials and gave a speech in the Elks Auditorium.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Anthony W. Dimock (1842-1918)

One of the most fascinating 19th century residents of Elizabeth was Anthony W. Dimock, a financial wizard, explorer and author. He was born in 1842 in Nova Scotia and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts in 1859. He went to New York where he became a member of the Stock Exchange before he was 21 years old. By 1865 he dominated the gold market of the country. At age 30 he controlled the Bankers and Merchants Telegraph Co. and was president of the Atlantic Mail and other steamship lines.

Dimock married Helen Weston of Elizabeth in 1865. He built a fabulous brownstone mansion on South Broad St., corner of South St., in the early 1870s. At the time it was the largest private residence in New Jersey. The Dimocks had a son Julian, born in Elizabeth in 1873. Dimock's brothers, Arthur Vaughn and George Edward, also lived in Elizabeth and worked in the financial sector.

Dimock later moved to an estate in the Palisades on the Hudson. He traveled extensively, seeking adventure among the Indians and ranchers of the West. He wrote books about his outdoor experiences, including exploring the Everglades and fishing for tarpon in Florida. These books were illustrated with photos taken by his son Julian, an accomplished photographer. His wife Helen died in 1901 and in 1909 he married Lelia B. Allen, also of Elizabeth. The above photo shows him trout fishing in the later years of his life. Dimock died in 1918.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Second Empire Style Home at 451 South Broad St. 1957

Photographs of the Quality Hill mansions other than Dimock's are rare. The only other photo I found is this 1957 view of the home at 451 South Broad St., published in the book "The Gingerbread Age" by John Maas. The home reflected the Second Empire style, characterized by the mansard roof. The four-story tower in the front of the house was a common feature in the Quality Hill mansions. Inside the tower was a grand staircase.

In 1906, the stately Victorian at 451 South Broad St. was owned by Russell Howland, a publisher. In 1910, the Erbe family owned the home. William Erbe, a lawyer, lived there with his mother, sisters, brother-in-law and nieces and nephews. A total of 10 people lived in the home which probably had 15-20 rooms.

The 1889 Sanborn map of the city shows there were at least thirteen homes with a 4-story tower, located at: South Broad St. nos. 357, 364, 400 (corner of Grove St.), 414, 419, 445, 451, 459 (corner of Garden St.), 500 (corner of Garden St.); Maple St. nos. 454, 502 (corner of Garden St.), 510; and Grier Ave. no. 502 (corner of Garden St.)

The home at 500 South Broad St. was identified in an 1898 map of the city as that of Dr. Walter Woolsey, a dentist who had an office on East Jersey St. The drawing of the home represents the Italianate design with a four-story tower.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Mansion at 502 Grier Ave.

Only two of these elegant homes survived. No. 451 South Broad St. became a rooming house, demolished about 2002. No. 502 Grier Ave. remains as a rooming house today. The original architectural features of this 19th century Victorian, including carved wooden brackets under the eaves, ornamental window trim, and fancy porch pillars, have been obliterated. Vinyl siding has covered the original wood clapboard.

Arnold Samuelsen said "On August 9, 1882, the 2-story mansard-roof dwelling on a 150x75 lot at Garden Street and Grier Avenue was sold at auction on the steps of the Union County courthouse for \$2,725. The winning bidder was H. W. Schmitz of Brooklyn." Schmitz was an attorney.

If the city had designated Quality Hill as a historic landmark, one of the most distinctive 19th century Victorian neighborhoods in the U.S. could have been protected and preserved. Cincinnati preserved its Knox Hill neighborhood, which has similar looking 1870s homes, and today it is a tourist attraction.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



South Broad St. View North from South St.

South Broad St., looking north from the intersection of South St., appears as a quiet residential street in this vintage postcard. The home on the right corner was at 248 South Broad St. and was owned in the early 1900s by Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Brown. A son Edward W. and daughter Jeanette S. lived with them. Mr. Brown was a contractor for many years. The Browns, who were members of the Elizabeth Town and Country Club, lived there until 1922 or later. The view today shows St. Mary's High School on the left and a Trinitas Hospital building on the right.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



South Broad St. View South from South St.

This early 1900s postcard is a view of South Broad St. looking south from South St. The tree-lined residential street had trolley service and was popular with doctors, dentists and other professionals. The ornate home on the right with the fancy window balconies was on a large lot at 700 South St. Today, Battin High School is on the left and a parking lot is on the right.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The address 700 South St. appears in city directories only from 1895-1903. It was the home of Hannah Oettinger Durlach (1843-1901), the widow of New York glue manufacturer Isaac Durlach, and some of her seven adult children. They included sons Henry, Nathan and Milton -- all diamond traders in New York -- and daughter Edith. The family came from New York and returned there after 1900. Hannah died April 15, 1901 at her residence, 117 E. 60th St. in Manhattan. The only other listing for 700 South St. was in 1903 when Henry E. Martin lived there; he was the pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Provoost Home on South Broad St. 1907

This 1907 photo shows the home at 212 South Broad St. of David B. Provoost, a leading Elizabeth architect in the late 19th century. He favored the Queen Anne architectural style, with prominent turrets, wraparound porches and decorative eaves, that was popular in the U.S. at the time. Provoost also designed commercial buildings and schools in the city. His office was at 78 Broad St. He died in 1918 and was survived by his wife Fannie. The stately homes along this portion of South Broad St. were demolished after 1954 for the expansion of St. Elizabeth Hospital.



Putnam Home on South Broad St. 1917

The Putnam home was located at 219 South Broad St., across from St. Elizabeth Hospital. Mary Putnam, widow of Erastus G. Putnam (1833-1915), was living there in 1921 according to the City Directory. Putnam was a physician

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

who moved to Elizabeth in 1872 where he purchased the Library Hall drugstore on Broad St. He served on the Board of Education 1877-1887. In 1888 he was named health inspector by the Board of Health.

The home was built in the 1890s with elements of the Queen Anne architectural style popular at the time. Notice the turret atop the third floor dormer window. The home on the left, at 227 South Broad, is older and represents the more elaborate Italianate design with a rooftop cupola. It was once the parsonage of the First Presbyterian Church on Broad St. Today it is a rooming house. The Putnam home was demolished years ago and replaced with the Elizabeth Medical Building.



Italianate Style Home on South Broad St. 1889 and Today

This Italianate style Victorian home is located at 227 South Broad St. and in the late 1800s was the parsonage of the First Presbyterian Church on nearby Broad St. Note the cupola on the roof, designed for light, ventilation and spectacular views. A staircase led up to the cupola. These homes had carved wooden brackets under the eaves and tall narrow windows with elaborate moldings or arches. Elizabeth C. Henderson lived there in the early 1900s with her daughters Susan, Sarah, sister-in-law Ann L. Henderson and two live in servants. The home is still in use today as a rooming house.



Queen Anne Style Home on South Broad St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The home at 331 South Broad St. was built between 1889 and 1903 in the Queen Anne architectural style. The prominent three-story tower with a conical roof is characteristic of this style. The stone construction on the first

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

floor is quite rare in Elizabeth. The original home had a wraparound front porch on the right side which was later removed for a professional office addition.

One of the early residents was John W. Whelan. The 1921 City Directory indicates he was vice president of the National Fire and Marine Insurance Co., president of the Union County Bank, and secretary/treasurer of the Elizabethtown Water Co. Whelan also served as president of the Suburban Golf Club in Union. At the time South Broad St. was a desirable neighborhood for wealthy residents, with many large homes, tall trees along the street, and convenient trolley service.



Second Empire Style Home on South Broad St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This Victorian home is located at 340 South Broad St. close to St. Elizabeth Hospital. It dates to 1889 or earlier and may have been part of the Quality Hill subdivision built in the early 1870s. The architecture is Second Empire, characterized by the windowed mansard roof. This style of roof provides a bonus third floor for a large family or live in servants.

The original owner is unknown. In 1911, the home was sold to a client of John W. Whelan, a financier who lived across the street at 331 South Broad St. The Chapman family was living there in 1920. Emma B. Isett, a teacher at Battin High School, lived there in 1929.

The home is currently used by a non-profit organization. Some of the original architectural features, such as decorative brackets under the eaves, have been removed but the at least a good example of Elizabeth's architectural legacy has been preserved.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Duplex Home on Pearl St.

The top vintage photo shows the duplex home at 740-742 Pearl St. The owner was John Chesnok, a machinist who lived there with his wife Mary and four children. Chesnok was born in Austria in 1880 and arrived in the U.S. in 1882. The photo likely dates to about 1912. John may be standing on the left, partially obscured, next to Mary. The young children sitting on the wall are probably Joseph, born in 1910, and Anna, born in 1908. Two more children were born later-Agnes in 1918 and John in 1921.

The duplex, built in 1904, is still in use today although the elaborate entranceway is gone along with the front wall.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Levey Home on North Broad St. ca. 1906

Elizabeth was once the home of wealthy merchants, bankers, lawyers, industrialists and financiers. Their estates graced streets such as North Broad, East Jersey, Westfield Ave., Westminster Ave. and Salem Ave. This photo is of the North Broad St. residence of Frederick H. Levey. The distinctive chateau style home was designed about 1880 by noted architect Bruce Price.

Levey was president of the Frederick H. Levey Company, which manufactured printing and lithographic inks for the major book and magazine publishers of his day. The company was established in 1893 and was headquartered in New York with the plant located in Brooklyn. Levey was a director of the Elizabethtown Water Co. and also served on the board of the Metropolitan Realty Co. The socially prominent family escaped the summer heat in Elizabeth by staying at their cottage near Newport, Rhode Island, undoubtedly enjoying the cool ocean breezes.

But by the 1920s North Broad St. was becoming a commercial street and the Levey home was replaced with the Winfield Scott Hotel. Levey died at his summer home in 1927.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The Frederick Harrington Levey home was at 323 North Broad (the Winfield Scott Hotel site), according to the 1900 census. He lives with his wife, Mary Chetwood Bispham Levey and a son and daughter. The family employs four servants: a butler, cook, seamstress and laundress.

Next door at 333 North Broad, was the home of Benjamin Howell Campbell (1848-1925), at one time an alderman in Elizabeth and for 51 years (1869-1920) headmaster of Columbia Grammar School in New York. His wife Mary Purviance Shiras Campbell, who died in 1905 after surgery, was descended from the Boudinot, Barber and Ogden families of Elizabeth. She and Mr. Levey's wife seem to be related because their mothers' names are Chetwood and both were born in Mount Holley, N.J. Mr. Campbell died April 8, 1925 at his residence, 411 Westminster Ave."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Home at 332 North Broad St.

This distinctive Italianate villa style home was probably built in the 1870s-1880s period. Note the elaborate gingerbread trim from the rooftop cupola to the front porch. The balconies on the second and third floors were rare.

Dr. William P. Brandegeer lived here in the late 1880s to early 1890s. He and his wife Caroline had three children: Ruth, Morris and William. He moved to NYC around 1900. Dr. Brandegeer died unexpectedly at a young age in 1906.

In the early 1900s, the home was owned by William H. Rankin, owner of a roofing company in Elizabeth.

The Union County Savings bank is now at the site. There are only a few of these homes left in the city, including the Whyman Parish House on Newark Ave. which is threatened with demolition.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Soldier's and Sailor's Monument, Elizabeth, N.J.

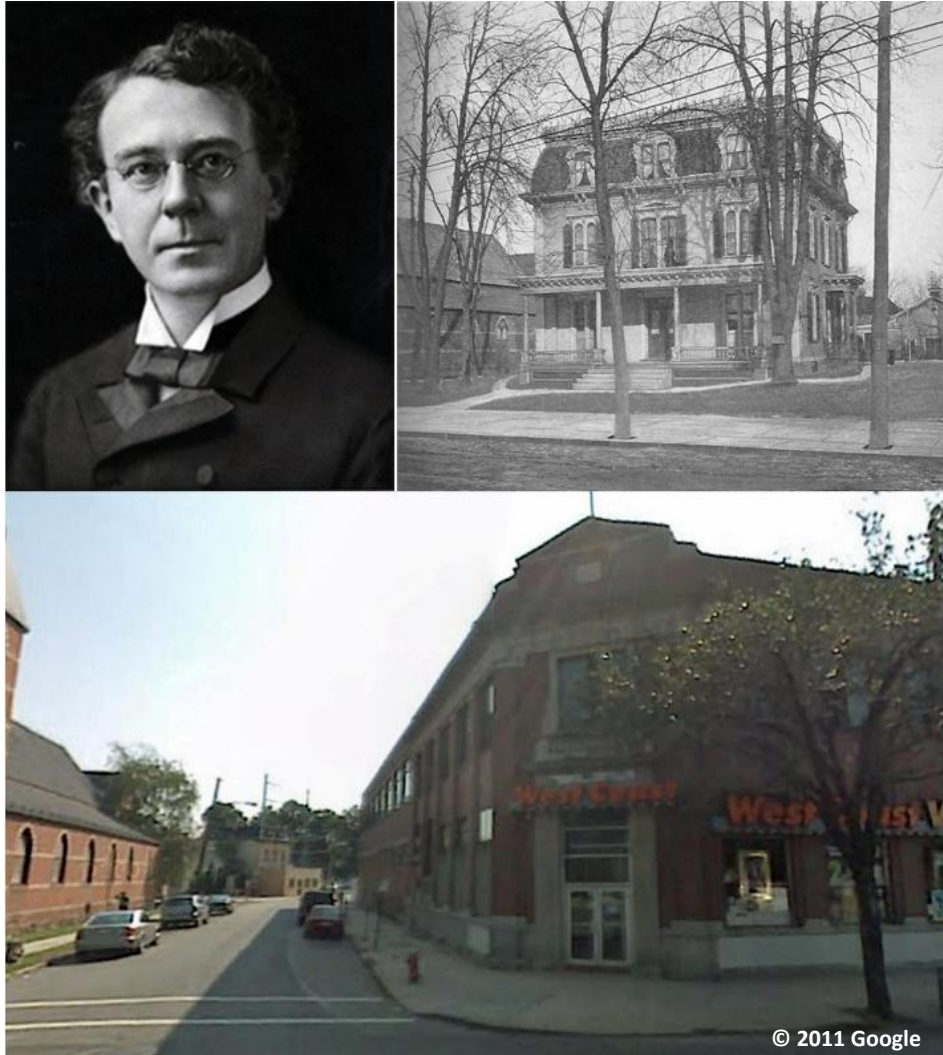


Military Square on North Broad St.

Military Square is bounded by North Broad St., Westminster Ave. and Prince St. The triangular plot of land was donated by the Westminster Presbyterian Church and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Williamson to Elizabeth in 1872. It was called Westminster Square until 1902 when the name was changed to Military Square. The Soldiers and Sailors monument was then erected with the inscription "To the soldiers and sailors who fought to preserve the Union, 1861-1865. Erected by the citizens of Elizabeth, July 4, 1906."

Today's view shows the transformation of North Broad St. from a residential street to a busy commercial thoroughfare. The commercialization began in the 1920s with the construction of the Bender Building near the Arch and the Winfield Scott Hotel.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Foster M. Voorhees Home on North Broad St.

Foster M. Voorhees, born in 1856, graduated from Rutgers University and started a law practice. He was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly in 1878 as a Republican and also served as Elizabeth School Commissioner. During this time he lived at 297 North Broad St. (photo top right). His law office was nearby at 286 North Broad St. In 1894 he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate. He ran for governor in 1899 and was elected when just 43 years old. During his term, Voorhees, considered a reform governor, improved the school and prison systems. He worked with Theodore Roosevelt to promote the Palisades Interstate Park along with other environmental measures to advance the state water supply system and state forest service. Upon completion of his governorship in 1902, he resumed the practice of law. After 1907 he moved to High Bridge in Hunterdon County but continued to practice law in Elizabeth. Before his death in 1927, he donated his 325-acre farm to the state; the property became Voorhees State Park.

His home at the corner of North Broad and Chestnut Streets, across from the Trinity Church, reflected the Second Empire architectural style, characterized by the windowed mansard roof and elaborate woodwork atop the roof and over the porches. The home was demolished after 1923 to make way for the new Elizabeth Daily Journal building (bottom photo). The Daily Journal went out of business in the early 1990s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Residence on North Broad St.

North Broad St. was once a tree lined boulevard graced with Victorian homes. This ivy-covered Second Empire style home at 421-423 North Broad St. was probably built in the 1870s. It had a mansard roof that created third floor living space for large families or live in servants. Note that it was actually a duplex, quite rare in the city at that time. There were also distinctive semi-circular porches on sides of the home.

The 1919 City Directory listed Dr. Frederick B. Keller, an osteopath, living there.

On the right side of the postcard was another charming Victorian duplex at 415-417 North Broad. St. The 1919 City Directory listed Mrs. Kate A. Chetwood, widow of Robert Chetwood, living there with her daughters Katherine and Virginia, a social worker, and son Robert, an engineer for the Western Union Telegraph Co. The Chetwood family was among the oldest in Elizabeth's history.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Still Home on North Broad St. 1915

This 1915 postcard is a winter view of the home of Dr. Benjamin F. Still at 428 North Broad St. Still was a doctor of osteopathy and purchased the home in 1913. In 1900 the home was owned by Jacob H. Oldhausen, the general superintendent of the Central Railroad. The mansard roof and elaborate decorations on the exterior are typical of the Second Empire style of architecture in the 19th century. This elegant home and many others along North Broad St. were later razed to make way for commercial buildings and apartments.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



North Broad Street; North from Parker Lane.

Elizabeth, N. J.



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North Broad St. View North from Parker Road

The residential character of North Broad St. is apparent in this early 1900s photo. The heavily treed street was lined with Victorian homes and had trolley service. On the left is a horse drawn carriage. The view today is entirely commercial.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Townley Estate on North Broad St.

North Broad St. was a premier location for the homes of wealthy Elizabeth residents in the 19th century. Company founders, New York business executives, lawyers and other professionals hired architects and built elegant homes there. An example is the Townley Estate, 626 North Broad St., shown in the top photo of 1909. This 26 room mansion was erected in 1857 for Jonas W. Townley, president of the Elizabeth Mutual Insurance Co. It was later owned by his son Jonas Mortimer Townley. Mortimer Townley married Helen Norton of Elizabeth in 1898. He was a stock broker and partner in the Wall St. firm of Homans & Co. and a director of the Jersey Mortgage Co. "Mort" Townley, active in Republican politics, was a socially prominent citizen and donated generously to the YMCA and Elizabeth General Hospital. In 1939 Townley, living in Union at the time, sold this estate for \$700,000 (equivalent to \$10.7 million today) to developer Bloomfield Park Estates. The mansion was torn down and replaced by apartment buildings.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Knapp Home on North Broad St. 1913

This classic red brick colonial home at 760 North Broad St. was built about 1913 for Edgar A. Knapp. The rear yard had a sunken garden for the owner's flower growing hobby. The bottom photos show the dining room and living rooms. The third floor had a bedroom and bath for a servant and two unfinished rooms. Knapp was in the fire insurance business in New York and like many executives probably chose to reside on North Broad St. because of the proximity to the train station.

In June 1908, Knapp married Elizabeth Dimock. She graduated from Vassar College in 1904 and was junior state secretary for New Jersey. She planned to continue this position after her marriage. The wedding was held outdoors at the home of her parents.

The Knapp home was razed after 1954 for construction of a multistory apartment building.

Arnold Samuelsen added "Edgar Albert Knapp (1877-1945) and Elizabeth Richter Dimock (1883-1975) moved to River's End, Rumson, prior to 1930 and lived there the rest of their lives. Their only son Edgar Allen Jr., a 2nd lieutenant in the 384 Fighter Squadron, died Feb. 1, 1945 and is buried in Cambridge, England. His father died July

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

30, 1945. The last of their three daughters, Elizabeth Knapp, died in 2009. According to the 1900 census, Edgar Knapp lived with his widowed mother, a school teacher, at 521 North Broad St. Elizabeth and her parents, George Edward Dimock, a banker, and wife Elizabeth, lived at 907 North Broad St."



Home on Waverly Place

Waverly Place, connecting North Broad St. and Newark Ave., was developed between 1903 and 1919. Ernest Merrick, a building contractor, lived there in 1920 with wife Agnes and daughters Esta and Jeannette. R. F. Moss, vice president of Scientific Concrete Service Corp. lived there in 1943. The front porch has been enclosed for additional living space. It looks like a rooming house today.

Arnold Samuelsen: "This house at 1252 Waverly Place dates to about 1872 when it was the home of Francis Pierson (1818-ca. 1885), a bookkeeper for Phoenix Bank in New York. His widow Mary lived there until her death about 1900. In 1870 Mr. Pierson, then living on Chestnut Street, made news when he grabbed his revolver and fired two shots at a burglar who was ransacking a bureau in his daughter Minnie's room. One bullet struck the man in the head. When he tried to escape, Mr. Pierson subdued the bloodied culprit and dragged him to the police station.

Ernest Merrick (1864-1938), a civil engineer, and wife Agnes Record (1864-1942) moved here about 1900 and raised daughters Esther (1901-2000), the wife of New York Times financial writer Burton Crane (1901-1963), and Jeannette (1904-1995), the wife of steel company executive and Elizabeth City Councilman Robert Faulkner Moss (1881-1964). In 1946 Burton Crane sold the house, described as a three-story, 10-room dwelling, to Joseph Napoleon de Raismes Jr. (1902-1997), a chemical engineer and executive with Union Carbide in New York, and his wife Elena B. Barron (1918-2010). Joseph, who grew up at 457 Westminster Ave., and Elena, from 241 Edgar Place, were married in 1941. They later moved to Boulder, Colo."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Schwed Home on Clinton Place

Today this beautiful colonial style home at 1269 Clinton Place is the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ). It was previously Temple Beth El which was located here until the 1980s.

Arnold Samuelson: "The house was the home of Leo H. Schwed (1879-1959) from about 1913 until about 1944, when he retired from the clothing business and moved to East Orange. Leo and his brother Moses (1880-) opened Schwed & Brother clothing store in the Dix building at 208-210 Broad St., in 1904. They renamed it the Schwed Building. Leo and Moses were born in Somerville and they and other brothers followed their father Charles Schwed into the clothing business. The family had stores in Somerville, Newark and other places in addition to Elizabeth."



North Ave. Looking To North Broad St. 1905

This view of North Ave. looking towards North Broad St. looks almost rural. The Victorian home on the right probably dates to the 1870s when Second Empire style homes with a 3- or 4-story tower were being built in the

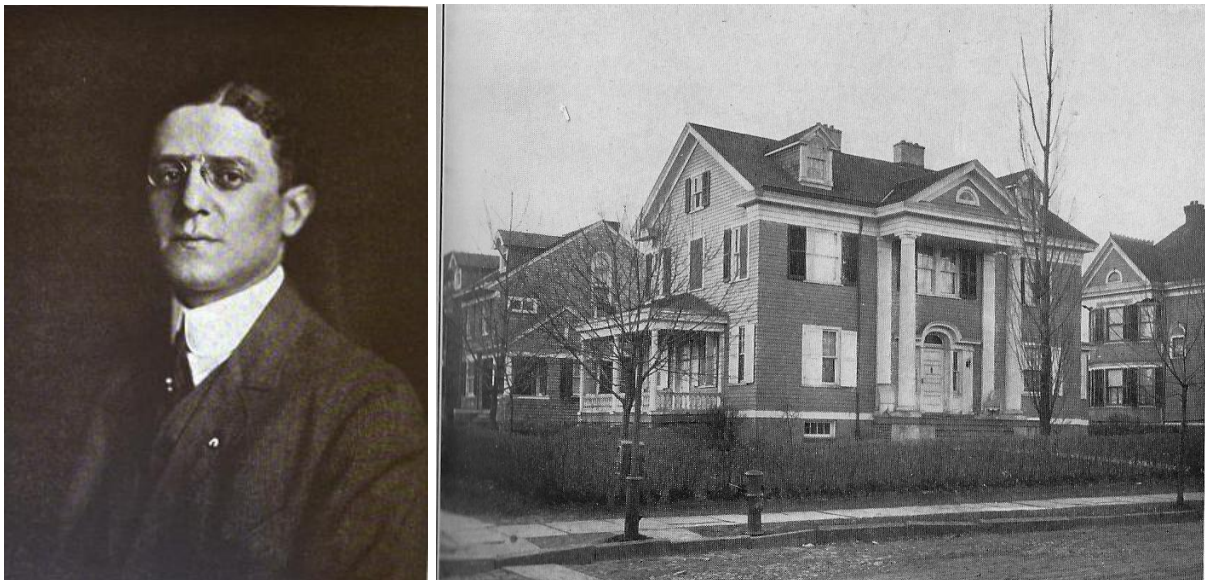
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

city by wealthy men. South Broad St. had about a dozen of these beautiful Victorians, all gone except for one converted with vinyl siding into a dull looking rooming house.



California Style Home on North Ave.

This home at 1335 North Ave. at Cross Ave. was built in 1914 for Walter McManus, a partner in the McManus Bros. furniture business. Victorian architecture was outdated, so owners looked for new designs like this two-story stucco California style home. On the first floor is a living room with fireplace, a dining room, both with beamed ceilings, kitchen, butler pantry and maid's room. There are four bedrooms and bath on the second floor. The building remains in good condition today as a medical services office.



Leavitt Home on North Broad St.

This two-story colonial was built about 1907 and was the home of prominent Elizabeth attorney Nathan R. Leavitt. It was designed by Elizabeth architect C. Godfrey Poggi and located on a large property at 801 North Broad St. and the corner of North Ave. The rear of the property had formal gardens and a large circular pool or fountain.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Leavitt was born in New York City in 1880 and later moved with his family to Elizabeth. He went to public schools and the New Jersey Law School, with admission to the bar in 1909. His early clients included banks and real estate organizations. He served as collector of Union County until 1912 and later was named county treasurer. Leavitt became president of Central Home Trust Co. in 1923 and held that position for many years.

He married Rae M. Marks of New York City in 1902 and joined many social organizations in Elizabeth, including the Masons, Elks, Young Men's Christian Association and the Suburban Club. He was a member of the Congregation B'nai Israel.

Prior to his death in 1966, Leavitt established the N.R. Leavitt foundation to support educational institutions such as the Pingry School. In 2008 the foundation gave \$360,000 in grants and had assets of \$4.5 million.



Alexander Home on North Broad St. 1905

This stately home, owned by James H. Alexander, was located at 810 North Broad St. Alexander was for many years one of the vice-presidents of the Standard Oil Co. before its reorganization. He was one of the pioneers in the development of the oil industry in the United States and was closely associated in business with John D. and William Rockefeller, H. H. Rogers and H. M. Flagler. Alexander, born in Toronto, Canada, died at age 84 at his home in 1919. He was survived by his widow and three sons.

An apartment building stands in place of the home today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Mulford Home on North Broad St. 1905

The home of real estate magnate Aaron Denman Mulford was on a large lot at 830 North Broad St. Mulford died in 1907 and his home was put up for sale with the description "THIRTY-FIVE minutes the most from New York City; eight minutes from house to station. Two hundred and twenty trains each day to City. Twenty-five minutes by trolley to Newark. The residence is on North Broad Street in the heart of the aristocratic district. First floor has large hall, lavatory, reception room, library, den, dining room, kitchen, servants' dining room, butler's pantry. Second floor has seven bedrooms, linen closet, bath; third floor has two bedrooms, large store room. Oak floors, electricity, steam heat throughout. Mahogany and quartered oak wainscoting on first floor; five open fireplaces; laundry and servants' bath in cellar. Small garage with cement floor.

Lot has 125 feet front and depth of 500 feet. Liberal amount of purchase price can remain on bond and mortgage, or good income property considered in exchange. Apply to E. D. Mulford, owner, or Real Estate Brokers, A. D. MULFORD & SON Elizabeth, N.J."

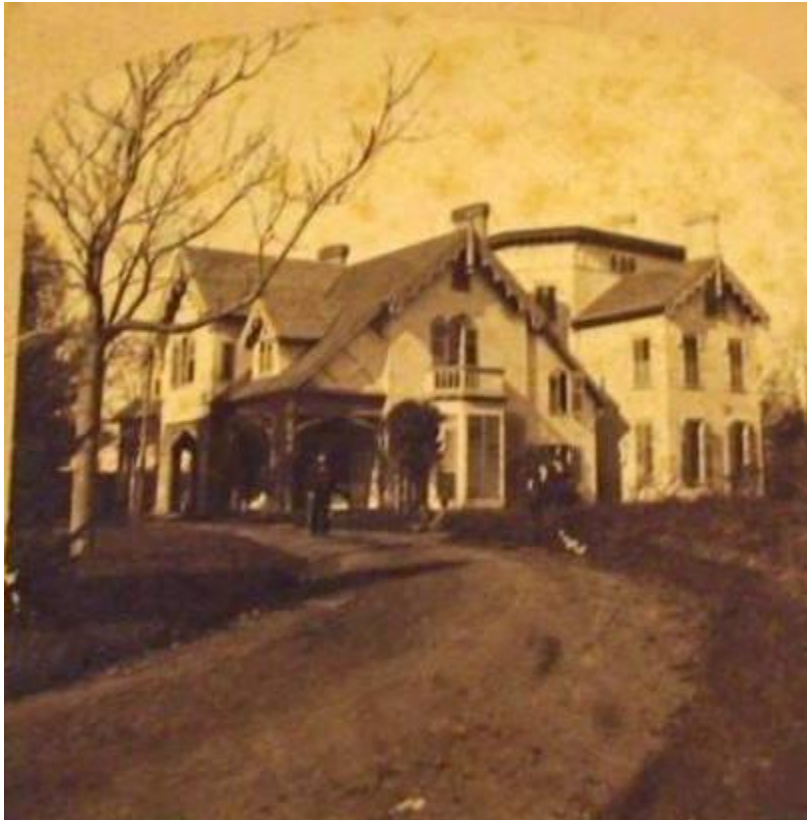
This magnificent home probably fell victim to the wrecking ball in the 1950s when North Broad St. estates were converted to drab apartment buildings.

Arnold Samuelsen reported: "Aaron Denman Mulford (1840-1907) lived at 830 North Broad St., according to the 1900 census. The property was acquired by Benedictine Academy, which was founded in 1915. His son Ernest Denman Mulford (1875-) operated Progress Realty Co. at 286 North Broad St. (the old Central Home Trust Co. building) and lived at 30 North Ave."

In 1919 the home was owned by Mr. Beverly R. Value. He was a prominent construction engineer who was vice president of the Empire Engineering Co. and secretary-treasurer of the George W. Rogers Co. He died in 1920 in New York City where he had moved.

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The home was eventually acquired by Benedictine Academy which was founded in 1915. It became known as Marion Hall and was used for classrooms and library.



North Broad St. Home Later Benedictine Academy

Adjoining the Mulford home was the large home seen in this 1870s photo. It was the residence of Richard Townley Haines, Sr and was actually two attached homes with the address 840-852 North Broad St. This was one of the most uniquely designed residences in the city. There are church inspired architectural influences such as arched doorways and windows, reflecting the religious background of the owner.

Arnold Samuelsen researched the Haines family history and reported: "The family of Richard Townley Haines Sr. (1795-1870), who fathered 19 children by two wives, lived in the house at 840 North Broad St. as well as the neighboring house at 852 North Broad St. in the 1870's and 1880's. Townley's second wife Francina Eglee Hannah Wilder, who was 19 when they were married in 1838, had 13 children. In 1880 five of them were living with her at 840 North Broad St., in addition to five grandchildren and two live-in servants. Francis Electa Haines, the wife of William Forest Halsey (1838-1891) died in 1876 in New Orleans, leaving five children who were sent to Elizabeth. Her husband worked in New Orleans and other cities for Brown Brothers, a New York banking house. Their oldest child, Richard Townley Haines Halsey (1865-1942), also known as R.T.H. Halsey, became a New York stock broker and collector of American decorative arts. Part of his collection was donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

-- The matriarch Francina Wilder was born in 1819 in Paris, France while her parents from Boston were visiting there, and died in 1886. She was a member of the National Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. In 1884 the town of Haines, Alaska was named for her because she chaired a committee that raised money to build a mission and school there.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

-- Richard Townley Haines Sr. was the first president of Union Theological Seminary in New York, serving for 23 years. He was a founder of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, of which a son, Francis Stoddard Haines was later pastor.

--The patriarch was born in Elizabeth May 21, 1795, the son of Benjamin Haines (1768-1808) and Rebecca Townley (1772-1798). He was a descendant of John Haines, one of the 64 associates who purchased Elizabethtown from the Indians in 1664. City directories list Haines living on Broad Street (which then included North Broad Street) but do not give a precise location.

-- The last of the 19 Haines children died in 1950. Henry Alexander Haines, born in 1860 as the 17th child overall, died at a hospital in Neptune, N.J., July 15, 1950. After graduating from Pingry School in 1875, he went to work in the cotton trade in New York and spent 74 years in that field. He retired in 1947 as president of Stockton & Co., which represented Southern cotton mills. He lived in New York but maintained his Elizabeth home at 1243 Fairmount Ave., corner of Newark Ave., now the site of a Walgreens."

The home later became a boarding house according to Arnold Samuelsen: "Amelia Ogden Allen Myers (1855-1947), the owner of the boarding house at 840 North Broad St. in 1900, was a daughter of John Kimball Allen (1824-1912) and Jane Allen (1823-1913). She was the widow of James Lawrence Myers, a partner in a New York law firm who died in 1894. Mrs. Myers moved to 17 Oakwood Place about 1916 and was living there at the time of her death, Sept. 12, 1947. She had been president of the Egenolf Day Nursery and vice president of the Elizabeth Choral Society, according to her obituary in the New York Times."

The 1900 federal census reports the boarding house of Amelia O. Myers had 23 people living there, including two servants, individual boarders and families including John K. Allen, a bookkeeper for a publishing company, his wife Jane and daughter Leila B. Allen. Leila was 37 at the time and active in missionary work. In 1909 she married Anthony W. Dimock, a former Wall St. tycoon who earlier built the fabulous mansion on South Broad St. that became Battin High School in 1889.

In the 1920s, the residence became the original Benedictine Academy which was torn down in the 1950's to build the brick building that the school occupies today.



Benedictine Academy Today

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

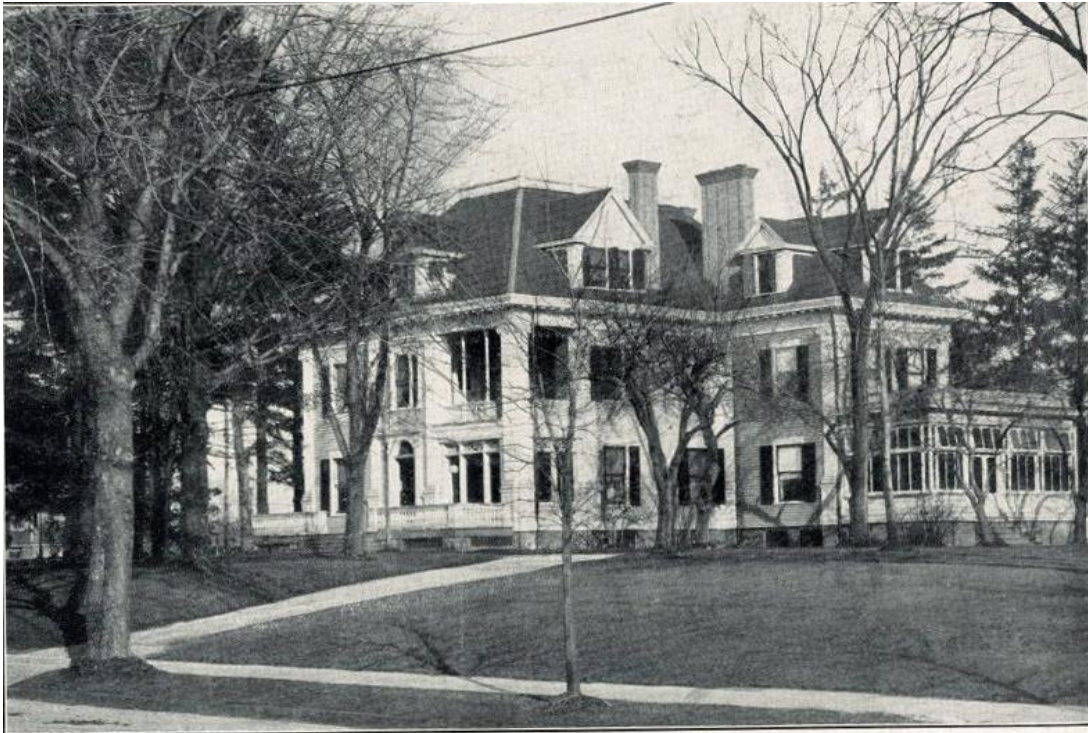


Davis Estate on North Broad St. 1903

One of the most impressive estates in the city was that of Frank H. Davis at 851 North Broad St. The home was built in 1901 on a seven acre site. Davis was vice president of the Chesapeake & Ohio, Hocking Valley, and Minneapolis & St. Paul Railroads and active in Republican politics. The architect was Charles Pierrepont Henry Gilbert, who designed opulent townhouses and mansions. Through the 1920s he designed more than 100 New York City mansions in various styles, several of them along Fifth Avenue. Amongst Gilbert's clients were wealthy and influential industrialists and bankers such as Harry F. Sinclair, Joseph Raphael De Lamar, Felix M. Warburg, Otto H. Kahn, Adolph Lewisohn, Augustus G. Paine, Jr. and families such as the Baches, Reids, Wertheims, Sloanes and others.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

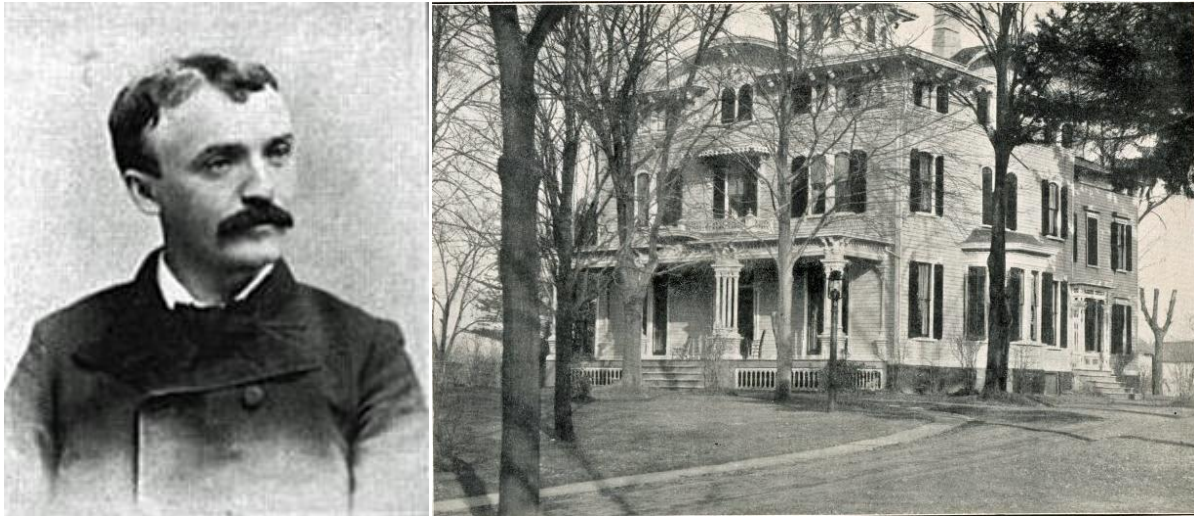
Frank H. Davis died at his home May 3, 1921 at age 61. The home is now owned by the Benedictine Center-St. Walburga Monastery.



George E. Dimock Home on North Broad St. 1905

George Edward Dimock, a banker, and his wife Elizabeth, lived at 907 North Broad St. in this colonial style home. Brother Arthur V. Dimock owned the stately home on the corner of Cherry and West Grand streets that became Johnny Murphy's Brass Horn restaurant in 1954. Older brother Anthony W. Dimock, a Wall St. magnate, built a mansion on the corner of South Broad and South streets in the early 1870s that became the first Battin High School in 1889.

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Left: Patrick H. Gilhooly 1889. Right: Gilhooly Home on North Broad St. 1905.

North Broad St. was a preferred location for the homes of lawyers in the 19th century. Some had their offices on Broad St. in the business district, a short trolley ride away. For those with offices in Manhattan, the main station and North Elizabeth station of the Pennsylvania Railroad were nearby. The home shown in this 1907 photo was located on a large property at 1003 North Broad St., owned by Patrick H. Gilhooly. He was born in Scotland in 1850 of Irish parentage and emigrated to the US as a child with his parents. Educated in Somerset County schools, he read law at Somerville in the offices of Gaston & Bergen and the Hon. Alvah A. Clark. He was admitted to the bar in 1873 and began to practice law in Elizabethport, living at 200 Fulton St. Later he entered into partnership with the Hon. Frederick C. Marsh, the firm known as Gilhooly & Marsh.

In 1880 Gilhooly was named county attorney of Union County. The same year he was elected a member of the Elizabeth Common Council and served for ten years. He was also District Court Judge from 1882 to 1887, and from 1891 to 1896. In 1890 he was elected president of the Elizabethport Banking Co. He was a prominent member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. In 1910 he was made a Special Master in Chancery and in 1917 formed a partnership with Albert F. Bender, the firm called Gilhooly & Bender. He died in 1918 and was survived by his wife, who was Miss Grace Hendricks, and three daughters, Mrs. M. D. Curry, Mrs. H. D. Scott and Miss Marjorie Gilhooly. On the day of his funeral the flag over Elizabeth City Hall was placed at half-mast in a token of respect.

The three-story Gilhooly home represented the Italianate architectural style prevalent in Elizabeth in the 19th century. Design elements included tall, narrow arched windows, elaborately decorated front porch, and windowed cupola on the roof for fresh air and an aerial view of the neighborhood.

In 1919 the home was owned by Leroy C. Jolles, manager of the Duesenberg Motors plant on Newark Ave. By 1922 the home had become the St. Catherine's School. It was razed years ago and today the site is a school parking lot.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



North Broad St. at Whitehead Place

This 1931 photo of the widening of North Broad St. near Whitehead Place gives a rare glimpse of the fading 19th century Victorian homes that once lined the street. From right to left these homes had numbers 517, 521, 525 and 531. The architectural style varied from home to home. No. 517 on the far right reflects a Greek Revival design, no. 521 the Second Empire style with mansard roof, and no. 531 the Italianate design with a cupola on the roof.

Dr. S. J. Keefe lived at 517 North Broad St. in 1919. Charles and Vera Hauxwell Roche lived there in 1930. Vera graduated New York University in 1928 with an A.B. degree.

The home at 521 North Broad St. was the Elizabeth Institute for Young Ladies in 1861. The Presbyterian finishing school was organized by Misses N. C. Read and S. N. Higgins. English and classical subjects were taught as part of

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

the college preparatory program. In 1882 the school was known as the Elizabeth Institute with one male and seven female teachers, and 40 female and 20 male students. The school was later known as the Vail-Deane School, which moved to Salem Ave. in the 1920s.

Dr. Frank Smith lived at 525 North Broad St. in 1919. No. 531 was occupied at the time by Andrew K. Vanderventer who worked as a treasurer in New York.

All these residences were replaced by commercial buildings.



Newark Ave. View North from North Broad St. 1908

Newark Ave. was a distinctive tree-lined residential street in this early 1900s postcard. The trolley tracks curving to the right indicate the location is at the intersection with North Broad St. The yellow painted home was at 541 North Broad St., one of the many large, elegant homes in the neighborhood. Note the hitching post at the curb in front of the home.

John W. Gannon, an 1899 graduate of Yale University and a merchant, lived there in the early 1900s. Judge Abe J. David lived there in the 1920s. He was a Union County prosecutor, Democratic leader and active in the Jewish community. This fine home was demolished after 1954 and replaced by a drab apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Newark Ave. View North from Fairmount Ave. 1905

The large home on the left is at 1243 Fairmount Ave. at the corner of Newark Ave. The three story tower with conical roof indicates this is a Queen Anne style home. Mrs. Henry A. Haines was living here in 1905; Edward C. Parish in 1922; Milo H. Westerfield, an engineer, in 1923; and Philip La Tourette, a NYC broker, in 1931. The turnover could mean this became a rooming house after the Haines family left. Today this corner is occupied by Walgreens. The second house from the left in this photo remains today on Newark Ave.



Demolition of 19th Century Mansion on Newark Ave. in 1955

This press photo shows the demolition of one of Elizabeth's elegant mansions. All that remained was the dining room fireplace topped with a mural of a yachting scene, reflecting the wealth of the original owner. Built in 1870,

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

the mansion deteriorated over the years with a succession of owners and vandalism. It was purchased by an auto dealership and demolished to expand the business.

The fireplace stands as a sad monument to Elizabeth's golden age of architecture. The 1950s represented the tipping point for the survival of the city's Victorian homes. The wealthy residents moved to the suburbs, leaving the homes with a bleak future. A few survived as funeral homes or were used as offices by non-profit agencies. Others were converted to rooming houses, reflecting the shift to a transient, lower income population. But most of these grand homes were razed to make way for gas stations, office buildings and dull looking apartment buildings. The city never took the initiative to setup historic preservation districts as did many other cities in the U.S.

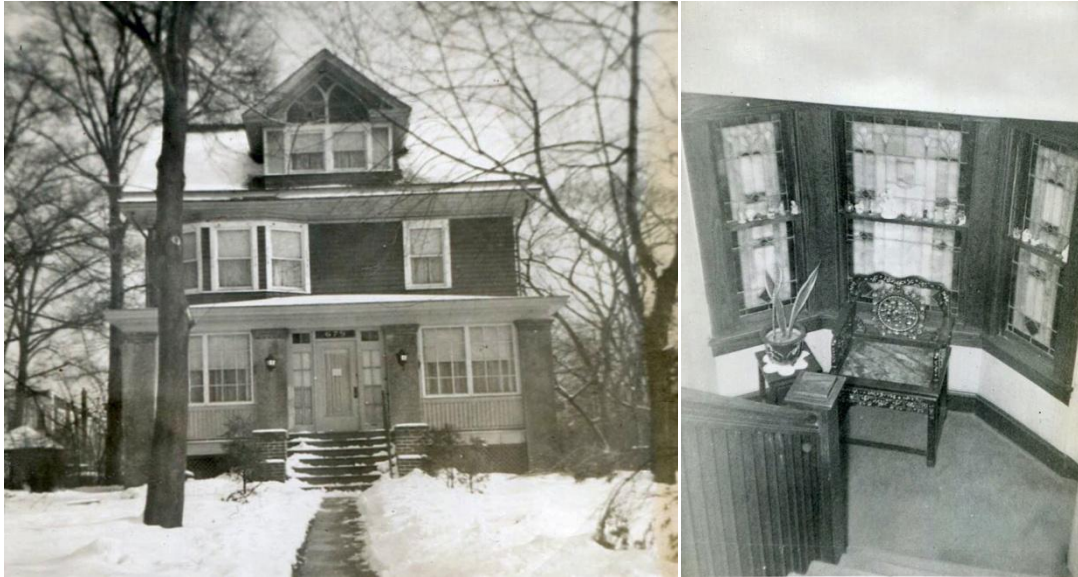
Arnold Samuelsen: "Hersh Ford moved from 23 Westfield Ave. to 655 Newark Ave. about 1955. The remains of the home pictured may be that at 659 Newark Ave. which was occupied by Aaron Woodruff Kellogg (1824-1911) from 1876 or earlier until his death. From about 1913 it was the home of Rev. Dr. Louis Burton Crane (1869-1934), who was pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church from 1910 until his death. His widow Mary Schuyler Crane died in this house Jan. 21, 1953. The Ford dealership later operated under the names Nappa Ford and Key Ford." The nearby homes at nos. 667 (a three-story home on a large lot backing to Pennsylvania Ave.) and 647 Newark Ave., which no longer exist, also have interesting history according to Arnold Samuelsen: "The house at 667 Newark Ave. dates to at least 1876 as the home of Martha B. Crane Kellogg (1810-), the second wife of Elijah Kellogg (1784-1856), and some of her grown children and step-children and their families. Isaac Kellogg was a merchant in Elizabeth, coming here in 1815 from his native Norwalk, Conn. He had 14 children, nine by his first wife Anne Morris Woodruff Kellogg, who died in 1831. Both wives had Elizabeth roots going back to the Revolution.

Prominent among the Kellogg children was Augustus Clark Kellogg (1819-1895), an 1840 graduate of Princeton University who lived at 667 Newark Ave. until his death. Afterward it was the home of John C. Rankin Jr. (1854-1903), the mayor of Elizabeth from 1890-98 and a stationer and printer in New York (John C. Rankin Co., 38 Cortlandt St.). His widow Ann Althea Rankin lived there until her death in 1926. The address 667 Newark Ave does not appear in city directory listings after 1926. John C. Rankin Sr., the mayor's father and a Presbyterian minister, had been a Princeton classmate of Augustus Clark Kellogg.

According to his obituary in the New York Times Nov. 23, 1895, Kellogg was an officer of the National State Bank where he spent 40 years, was for nine years manager of the Elizabethport Glue Works and recently had been an incorporator of the Standard Rope and Twine Co. of Elizabeth, a reorganization of the National Cordage Trust. With other brothers, he was a member of the land improvement firm of Crane, Tubbs & Co., which developed much of North Elizabeth. The land for what is now known as Kellogg Park was willed to the city by Edward Nash Kellogg (1815-1867).

The house at 647 Newark Ave. was still occupied in 1959. It was later replaced by a supermarket and is now Foreman Mills, a discount clothing outlet. Living there in 1880 was William H. Tutt (1823-1898), a native of Augusta, Ga., who lived here for a few years while working as a druggist in New York. His son Louis D. Tutt (1859-1892), also a druggist, drowned with his guide while hunting in the Adirondack Mountains. Thomas R. White Sr. (1850-), a lawyer in New York, moved to this house in the 1890's and his daughter Olga White Bizzell (1890-1988) and her husband Carey K. Bizzell (1894-1970) were living there as late as 1959."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



**Home on Newark Ave. Note Fine Interior Woodwork and Stained Glass Windows.
Photos Courtesy of Peggy Mahoney McKee.**

This home at 679 Newark Ave. was owned in 1920 by Jacob Martin who had a plumbing business at 10 Fifth St. Martin, who was born in Bavaria in 1871, came to the U.S. in 1887 according to the 1920 Census. Living with him were his wife Katherine, 47 and sons John, 22, Harold, 17 and Lester, 9. John worked as a clerk.

Peggy Mahoney McKee said: "This was my grandmother's home. During the 1950s-1960s there was a food store between it and the Wyman house. It was a fabulous house. In the late 1960s or early 1970s, it was purchased by a car dealer and torn down."

On the northern side of 679 Newark Ave. was the large home at no. 681, shown below. It was owned by building contractor Charles Flocken. The site is now a used car lot.



Top: Flocken Home on Newark Ave. 1907. Bottom: The Location Today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Whyman Parish House on Newark Ave. Photo of 2010 Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The Whyman Parish House at 705 Newark Ave. was built during the 1860-1871 period and is one of the last examples of an Italianate villa home in Elizabeth. The windowed cupola on the roof is characteristic of the design and had the practical purpose of ventilating the house in hot weather. The cupola is accessed by a staircase from the second floor.

Early owners included Peter B. Amory and Mary J.F. Pratt. John Halpin Lafferty, a Columbia College student, was living there in 1890. Thomas Whyman, a builder, purchased the house in 1902. The 1921 City Directory lists Henry L. Whyman living there. His real estate and insurance office was at 1029 Elizabeth Ave. Whyman died in 1949, leaving the house to his brother Joseph and two sisters who lived there. It was donated in 1965 to the Central Baptist Church on East Jersey St.

Original features of the interior include plaster walls and ceilings, plaster cornices and ceiling medallions, molded woodwork, panel doors, hardware, marble mantels with coal grates and the open main staircase.

The house is a registered national landmark. It stands on a large lot and retains all the original exterior buildings including a carriage house. A cast iron fountain remains in the front yard. But in recent years the condition of the house has deteriorated. This magnificent home may face the same fate that other homes in the city have met with, namely sale of the property and demolition for commercial purposes.

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Dutch Colonial Home on Newark Ave.

This 1906 postcard shows a beautiful home on a large lot at 712 Newark Ave. At the time, Claude M. Rivers, manager of the Lustral Leather Co. in Newark, was living there. According to Arnold Samuelsen, Rivers, born in Missouri in 1858, retired in 1914 after operating two leather tanneries in Newark and one in Elizabeth. He died October 8, 1929. His widow Elizabeth lived until 100. Their only child, Charles Emerson Rivers (1895-1956) was a medic in World War I. The Rivers family moved often, to 1251 Clinton Place by 1909, and by 1915 to 21 Aberdeen Road and later to 615 Newark Avenue.

The 1919 City Directory listed John L. Ross, a machinist, living at 712 Newark Ave.

The home was demolished after 1954 and replaced by a commercial building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

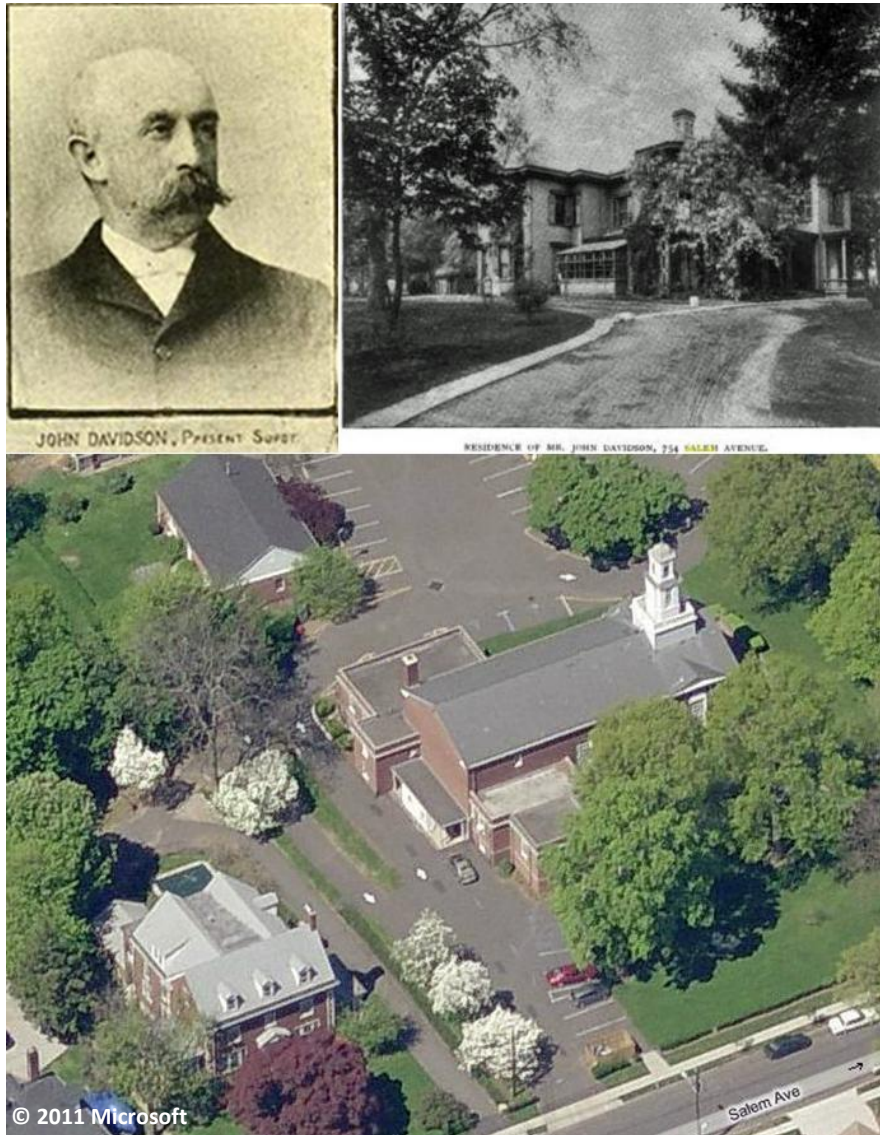


Genung Home on Salem Ave.

This is an 1889 photo of the home of Charles H. Genung at 620 Salem Ave. The three-story Victorian home was probably built around the mid-19th century. Note the hitching post and the small dog at the curb of the dirt road. Genung was born in Morristown but lived in Elizabeth most of his life and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. He was married to Anne Miller. His brothers Moses and Edward W., who was a builder, lived in Brooklyn. Genung died in 1898 at 80 years of age. The home was razed years ago, possibly for an athletic field for the adjoining Vail-Deane School.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Charles H. Genung operated a furniture store at 231 Broad St. Starting with 1890, the city directory lists him as retired. His daughter Hannah Augusta and her husband New York lawyer Robert Davidson continued to live at 620 Salem Ave. until Augusta's death at age 87 Dec. 6, 1935. They had no children. Robert Davidson died prior to 1920."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Davidson Home on Salem Ave.

John Davidson was a native of Berwickshire, Scotland and came to this country with his parents when ten years old. He was admitted to the bar in 1859 and practiced law with remarkable success in New York City for thirty years. He was an accomplished orator, giving a speech upon the death of Abraham Lincoln to the Lexington Literary Association of New York on April 19, 1865. He addressed the Legislature of New Jersey on February 22, 1866 with the Civil War speech "Our Sleeping Heroes". Davidson was active in Republican politics and served as superintendent of the Westminster Presbyterian Sabbath School for many years. He died in 1911 at age 74.

His home was located at 754 Salem Ave. on a 1.8 acre lot. Today the property is the site of the Third Westminster Presbyterian Church at the corner of Salem and North Avenues.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Fowler Mansion on Salem Ave. 2011 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

A top 10 list of Elizabeth mansions would have to include the residence of Charles N. Fowler, built in the early 1900s at 618 Salem Ave. Fowler was a Republican who represented New Jersey's 8th congressional district in the House of Representatives from 1895 to 1903, and the 5th district from 1903 to 1911. Born in 1852 in Illinois, he graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1878. After practicing law in Kansas, he came to Elizabeth in 1891 where he was president of a mortgage company. He also owned marble quarries in Vermont.

Fowler hired the prestigious architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings, designer of the New York Public Library, to create the plans for his home. The architecture reflects the Colonial Revival style that became popular in the late 19th and early 20th century. Fowler and his wife Hilda had two children Charles N. Fowler Jr. and Matilda Fowler. The 1920 census shows also living with the Fowlers were Cornelia Heg, Hilda's mother from Norway, and two live in servants from Ireland.

In 1930 Fowler moved to Orange where he died in 1932. His residence was acquired by the Vail-Deane School which operated a private school for many years. In 1986 the building was added to the national historic landmarks list. It is currently occupied by the Darul Islam mosque which remains today after repairs from a fire in 2003. The building has been remodeled, with the loss of some of the fine architectural features of the original mansion.

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Smoot Home on Salem Ave. 1916

This 2.5 story home was built about 1916 on a large lot at 704 Salem Ave. opposite De Witt Road. The 1919 City Directory listed the owner as Albert M. Smoot, a chemist. Architect Shiras Campbell of Elizabeth designed a classic center hall colonial typical of many homes built in the Westminster section. Campbell lived at 441 Westminster Ave. and had an office in New York. He graduated from Yale University in 1900. He was the son of Benjamin Howell Campbell and Mary Purviance Shiras Campbell, a descendant of the Ogden, Boudinot, Chetwood and Barber families of Elizabeth. She was prominent in the social, civic, and literary life of the city and was the founder of the Boudinot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Campbell was one of the architects of the Hotel Commonwealth in Times Square, New York City. Built around 1916, the hotel was the largest building in the world at the time, 28 stories high and with 2,500 rooms. Campbell also designed Pomander Walk on the Upper West Side, lined with eight Tudor style homes, giving the look of an English country village. It remains a tourist attraction today.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Shiras Campbell died Feb. 7, 1958 at New York Hospital. He was 79 and lived at 140 E. 56th St. His obituary in the New York Times said Shiras designed many of the large residences in the Westminster section and was an associate architect for the Union County Courthouse. He was an Army aviation officer in World War I and was a founder of Argonne Post American Legion in Elizabeth. His father, Benjamin Howell Campbell, was headmaster of Columbia Grammar School in New York for 51 years. His mother, Mary Purviance Shiras, may have been the first cousin of Mary Chetwood Bispham who was married to Frederick H. Levey. Both women were born in Mt. Holly, N.J. Mary Purviance Shiras was the daughter of James Eakin Shiras and Susan Jelf Chetwood. Mary Chetwood Bispham was the daughter of Charles Bispham and Margaret Barber Chetwood. The Levey and Campbell families lived next to each other on North Broad St. at nos. 323 and 333."

In later years the Salem Ave. home was razed and two smaller homes were built there.

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Janet Memorial Home on Salem Ave.

In 1911 Mrs. John Stewart Kennedy of New York donated funds for a new orphanage on Salem Ave. The Spanish Mission style 4-story villa was named the Janet Memorial Home in memory of Mrs. Kennedy's mother Janet Ten Eyck Edgar Baker, the wife of Cornelius Baker. The total cost was \$150,000 equivalent to \$3.5 million today. The orphanage had 80 beds.

A plane crashed into a nearby apartment building in 1952, killing 34 including three residents. The Janet Memorial Home closed in the early 1970s when New Jersey eliminated orphanages. The building was abandoned for years before demolition in 1996. The site is now occupied by the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy No. 26 public school.

An 1882 Ward 6 map shows a large property between Salem and Westminster Avenues that was later purchased to build the Janet Memorial Home. The owner was Nathaniel Smith. There was a large home on the map with various smaller buildings in the rear near Westminster Ave. that may have been a livery stable, carriage house, etc. There was a circular drive in front of the home and winding paths behind the home that may have encircled gardens.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Nathaniel Smith (1822-), a commission merchant in New York, and wife Mary lived at 684 Salem Ave. in 1880 and 1881, at least, after moving from New York.. It was later the residence of Benjamin Crockett Barroll Jr. (1847-1912), his wife Emily Thomas Lee Barroll (1854-1910) and five children. They were a socially prominent family from Baltimore. Mr. Barroll was a coal dealer in New York. The 1895 wedding of their oldest child, Josephine Lee Barroll (1875-1967) to Seward Bailey McNear {1872-1959} of Oakland, Cal., at St. John's Episcopal Church on Broad Street "was one of the most brilliant ever seen in the city," according to the New York Times of Dec. 6, 1895. "Every public coach was engaged for the guests, who gathered in the hundreds at the church. Elizabeth's fashionable society turned out en masse to witness the nuptials. The groom is a rich flour manufacturer in Oakland, while the bride's father is prominent in the coal trade in New York City. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the residence of the bride's parents, 684 Salem Avenue."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



A GROUP OF NEW HOUSES JUST COMPLETED NEAR "ROUTLEDGE," FOR THE OWNERS



Homes on Aberdeen Road Then and Now

This 1905 photo shows the first homes built on Aberdeen Road which connects Salem Ave. and North Broad St. The homes shown are numbered 21 to 27, going from right to left. These upscale homes are still there today, as seen in the bottom photo of home at no. 21.

By the time of the publication of the 1919 City Directory, there were nine homes on Aberdeen Road, all with telephone service. No. 21 was owned by Edmund J. Bingle. He was president of the Consolidated Fireworks Company of America, which had an office in New York.

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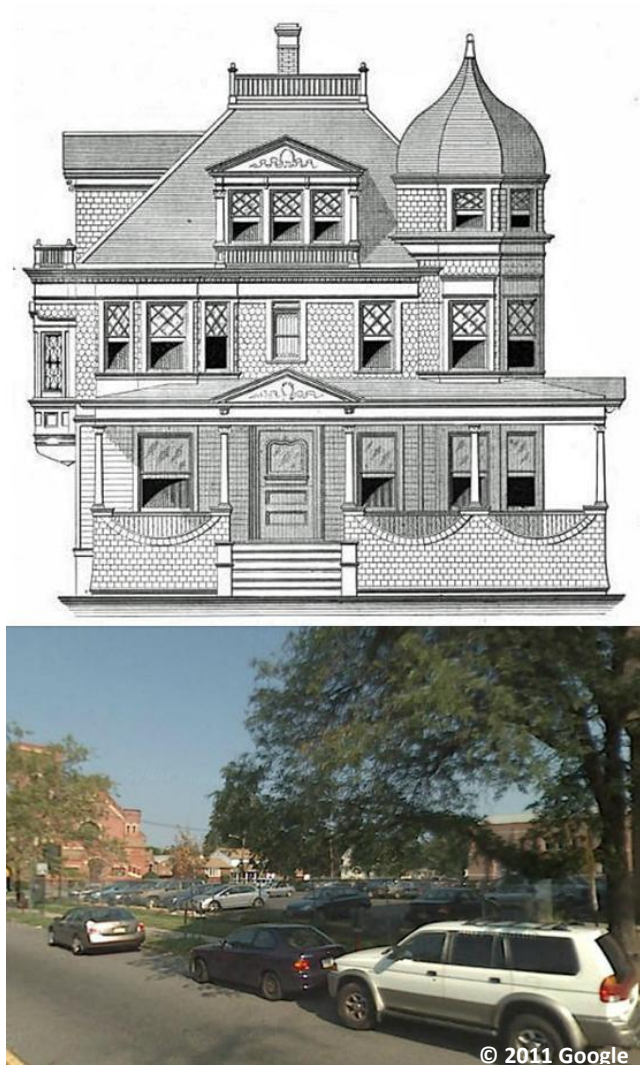


Kilsyth Road Home Then and Now

In 1912 the Elizabeth Daily Journal reported new homes planned for the "Routledge" development along Kilsyth Road. The real estate development firm Walter B. Perkins Company broke ground for the home on the left at 815 Kilsyth Road. The 2.5 story colonial style home with a large veranda was finished in stucco and had 9 rooms. It was equipped with fixtures for both gas and electric lights. The design was by noted Elizabeth architect G. Godfrey Poggi. Poggi was Elizabeth's premier school architect, having designed the Battin, Cleveland, Roosevelt and Elmora schools.

The 1919 City Directory listed the resident as Leonard F. Sawvel, president of The Evening Times newspaper located on Broad St. The home remains today in excellent condition.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Perrine Home on Prince St.

Prince Street, between Union and Westminster Avenues, was once lined with stately homes. The top drawing shows the home of Mrs. Cornelia Perrine located at 37 Prince St. It was designed by the local architectural firm Oakley and Son and built about 1906. Note the distinctive octagonal tower and the oriel style bay window projecting from the second floor. The first floor had a parlor, library, den, dining room, kitchen and butler pantry. On the second floor were four bedrooms, sewing room, and bathroom. The third floor had two bedrooms for live-in servants. The servants' bathroom was located in the basement. A coal-fired furnace heated the rooms with hot air from registers. The home was piped for gas, wired for electricity and electric call bells, and had speaking tubes.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Cornelia Bergen Perrine (1835-1914), the widow of Philadelphia wholesale liquor dealer Matthew Perrine (1831-1898), moved to Elizabeth after the death of her husband and returned to Philadelphia a year or two before her death. She appears in the 1902 to 1907 city directories as living at 35 or 37 Prince St. and in the 1909 to 1911 directories at 457 Westminster Ave. where she lived with two widowed daughters, Hanna V. Davis, 44, and Mary Blanche Hazelhurst, 42, along with two granddaughters, Marian Davis, 17, and Cornelia Miller, 16. Cornelia and Mathew were raised and married in Monmouth County and moved to Philadelphia before 1880. They summered in Cape May."

The row of fine homes on this block was eventually replaced by a parking lot and commercial building.

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Early 20th Century Home on Union Ave.

Victorian architecture was fading when this colonial style home at 439 Union Ave. was built in the early 1900s. But note the corner tower with a conical roof, a vestige of Queen Ann architecture of the late 19th century.

The 1920 Census indicated Eugene J. Kroft, 46, was living here with his wife Harriet, 48. Kroft was a tool designer for the Standard Aircraft Co. in Bayway.

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Grier Home on Westminster Ave. 1909. 2011 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden

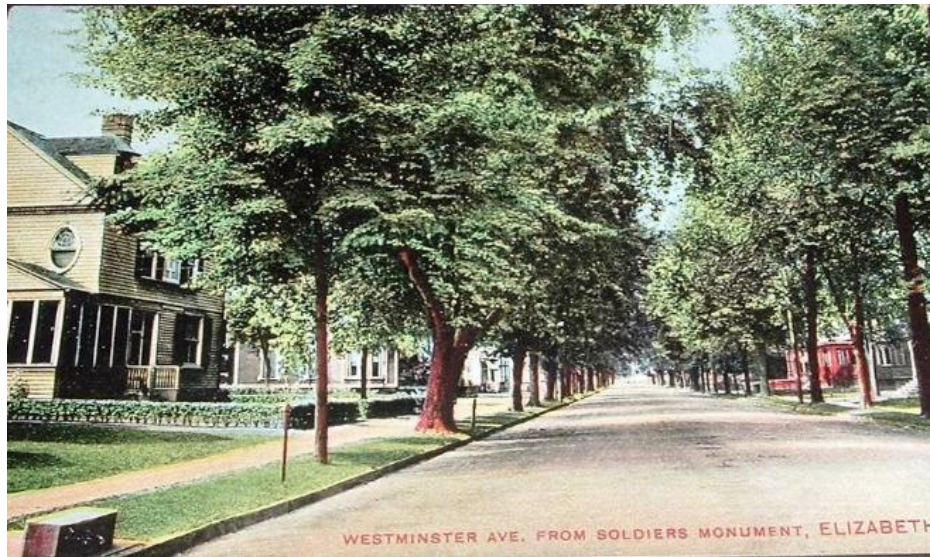
Dr. Edward B. Grier built this colonial style home at 400 Westminster Ave., corner of Prince St., about 1907. The design was by noted Elizabeth architect C. Godfrey Poggi.

Although it has a Westminster Ave. address, the house fronts on Prince St. and today houses a branch of Crown Bank. It has been used as an office building for many years, housing offices for lawyers, a real-estate firm and dental practice, among others.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Dr. Edgar Boileau Grier (1858-1923) lived at 400 Westminster Ave., corner of Prince St., in the 1910 and 1920 censuses with his wife Fanny C. Their son and only child Edgar Jr. (1894-1952) graduated from Pingry, served in the U.S. Army cavalry before World War I, married in 1917 and moved to New Haven, Conn., where he was a stockbroker. The Grier's employed three live-in servants in 1910 and two in 1920. Dr. Grier's death announcement from the Journal of the American Medical Association, issue of April 21, 1923:

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Edgar B. Grier Elizabeth, N. J.; University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, 1883 ; formerly president of the board of education; on the staff of the Elizabeth General Hospital and Dispensary; aged 65; died suddenly, April 2, of heart disease."



Westminster Ave. View North from Prince St.

This early 1900s postcard shows Westminister Ave. as a shaded street with large homes. The upscale street has always been popular for the homes and offices of physicians. The home on the left in the postcard is at 410 Westminister Ave. Dr. Norton L. Wilson, an ear, nose and throat specialist, lived there from about 1904 to the early 1920s. Sherwin L. Haseltine, a homeopathic physician, resided there in 1925. Dr. Michael Vinceguerra lived there in the 1930s, followed by Dr. Alden R. Hoover, a surgeon, in 1938. He died in 1940 at age 63.

The second home from the left in the postcard is 414 Westminister Ave. Dr. James S. Green, a leading physician and surgeon who served as Mayor of Elizabeth in 1878, lived there for many years. It later became the Higgins Funeral Home and then the Higgins and Bonner Funeral Home which operated until a few years ago.

The elegant homes at 410 and 414 Westminister Ave. have been demolished with vacant lots there now, likely for a commercial development.

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Italianate Style Homes on Westminister Ave. 2011 Photos Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The Elizabeth I remember from the 1950s still had elegant homes built in the late 19th century. As time passed and ownership changed hands, many of these homes were allowed to deteriorate and were replaced by apartment buildings, commercial offices or gas stations. But these two homes, opposite each other on Westminister Ave. between Prince St. and Parker Road, have survived in good condition as rooming houses.

The homes represent the Italianate style of design which was popular in Elizabeth in the 1840-1885 period. Italianate homes are typically rectangular or square in shape, have two or three stories, and a windowed cupola on the roof for light, ventilation and great views. An inside staircase leads up to the cupola. The front porch is columned and usually leads to a double door entrance with glass panels. Another common feature are the tall, narrow, rounded, decorative windows. The dual first floor windows are taller than the second floor windows. The slightly sloped roofs have overhanging eaves often supported by dual decorative brackets.

The home on the left at no. 432 has a more complex roofline, with eyebrow arches on all sides, mirroring the arches on the cupola and the front porch. It was once the home of Charles Townsend, who lived there in the early 1900s with his wife Kate, daughters Harriet and Mary, son Charles and two live in servants from Ireland and Germany. Townsend was in the glue business in New York. He served as treasurer of Christ Church and a trustee of the Elizabeth General Hospital. The family belonged to the Elizabeth Town and Country Club.

The home on the right with a simpler design is at no. 433 Westminister and was originally owned by Frederick W. Foote, publisher of the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1868.

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Westminster Ave. View North to Parker Road ca. 1910

This vintage postcard shows homes along tree lined Westminster Ave. The home on the left dates to 1903 or earlier. The 3-story turret with a cone shaped roof is typical of the Queen Anne architectural style. The home may have been designed by Elizabeth architect David Provoost who featured turrets and front porches with pediments in many of his designs.

In 1919 the occupants of the homes on the left side were Joseph Isaac, buyer; Conover English, lawyer; Henry E. Armstrong, journalist and Burnham C. Stickney, lawyer.

These homes have been replaced by apartment buildings.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Joseph Isaac (1882-1938) of 436 Westminster Ave. was a partner in Hyman Isaac and Sons, iron and metal dealers at 873 East Grand St. He was the father of Hyman Isaac (1910-1998) a prominent attorney who handled appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court and was president of the Union County Bar Association.

Conover English (1877-1963), who lived at 440 Westminster Ave., joined the McCarter law firm in Newark in 1902 as a clerk and by 1908 was a partner in the reorganized McCarter & English which he served for six decades. Today, McCarter & English employs more than 400 lawyers in Newark and eight other offices from Boston to Washington, D.C. Conover English grew up at 564 Jefferson Ave. and 504 Westminster Ave., the son of Union County prosecutor Nicholas C. J. English. He graduated from Pingry in 1895, Princeton in 1899 and New York Law in 1902 and served on Pingry's Board of Trustees for much of his life. He moved to Summit after 1930. He died June 17, 1963 of injuries he suffered from being struck by a taxi in downtown Newark earlier in the day.

Henry E. Armstrong (1858-1939) was a writer of editorials and book reviews for The New York Times. He lived at 446 Westminster Ave. from about 1910-20. Prior to that he resided at 545 Morris Ave. for at least 10 years. About 1920 he moved to 20 Hillside Road. He was a resident of Atlantic Highlands when he died Aug. 23, 1939, a year and a half after retiring from The Times.

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Burnham Coos Stickney (1863-1937) was a patent attorney and inventor of typewriter devices who lived at 450 Westminster Ave. from about 1913-1929. He then moved to 99 North Ave., at Westminster Ave., in Hillside. Stickney was born in Portsmouth, N.H., and came to Elizabeth in the 1890's, first living at 151 Jefferson Ave. and then 716 South St. He invented a Japanese typewriter, several bookkeeping machines, improvements in type action and other devices, according to his obituary in the New York Times. Many of the patents he had transferred to his employer of 35 years, the Underwood Typewriter Co. and its successor, Underwood Elliott Fisher Co. He died of a heart attack at his office, 1 Park Ave. in New York, June 11, 1937."



Morse Home on Westminster Ave.

One of the most unusual homes in the Westminster section is at 449 Westminster Ave. It was built about 1921 by architect Henry G. Morse as his residence. The top left photo was taken shortly after construction. Morse built the home with precast, lightweight concrete panels mounted on a steel framework for the exterior. He also used the material for the interior walls, stair treads and even the fireplace, shown in the top right photo. The lightweight product was called Porete, after the porous nature of the concrete, and was manufactured in Newark. The natural color was described as a "warm gray" but the panels could also be colored. The exterior could be

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coated with stucco for an improved appearance. This was probably the first house built in Elizabeth with concrete panels.

Morse was born in Ohio in 1884. For some years he was associated in New York with Hawes & Morse, architects, and later had his own firm. Among the buildings which he designed are the Carnegie Institute, the YMCA in Camden, United States Engineers Building in New York, and the Warwick Priory and Agcroft Hall near Richmond, VA. He died in Essex Fells in 1934.



Left: Nicholas C. J. English 1889 Right: English Home on Westminster Ave. 1907

The Queen Anne architectural style became popular in the city around 1880. The home in this 1907 photo was located at 504 Westminster Ave. at the corner of Parker Road. Note the prominent rooftop turret and the rounded, wrap around front porch, characteristics of this design. The architect was C. Godfrey Poggi who designed many schools and commercial buildings in the city.

The home was owned by lawyer Nicholas C. J. English, who was born in 1842 in Bernard Township. English served as Union County prosecutor and was a director of the Union County Trust Co. His law office was at 109 Broad St. English died in 1922. The home was later occupied by Dr. Jacob Blumberg and after 1951 by Dr. Joseph Sadoff. It was eventually replaced by several town houses.

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Edwards Home on Westminister Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This impressive home at 511 Westminister Ave. reflects a colonial design with a pediment and supporting columns inspired by a Greek temple. It was probably built in the WW I era. The 1919 City Directory listed George B. Edwards as the owner. He worked in the insurance business in New York.

Arnold Samuelsen: "This was the residence of Harry S. Brown, president and board chairman of Foster Wheeler Corp. He lived here from about 1925 until his death in the 1950's."

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Tidd Home on Parker Road 1916. Today's Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The home of George N. Tidd at 31 Parker Road was built in 1916 with a two-story colonial design, reflecting a departure from the Victorian styles popular in Elizabeth in the late 1800s. The architect was Aymar Embury II. Tidd was born in Pennsylvania about 1875. He and his wife Charlotte had a son Willard. He became president of the American Gas & Electric Co. in 1923 and chairman in 1924. By 1936 he was one of the highest paid executives in the country, earning \$75,000 which is equivalent to \$1.2 million today.

American Gas & Electric was incorporated in New York in 1906 and provided electric service, gas, water, steam, transit, or even ice service in communities in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. American Gas & Electric would change its name to American Electric Power (AEP) in 1958, now one of the largest utility companies in the country.

Charlotte Tidd died in 1934 leaving an estate valued at \$1.2 million. George Tidd died in 1952. Although he never finished high school, he had a passion for beautiful books. He willed his extraordinary collection to the Tioga Point Museum in his hometown of Athens, Pennsylvania.

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Canda Home on Westminster Ave.

Westminster Ave. has been an upscale neighborhood for years and a favorite address for professionals and business owners. The lower portion is older and had Victorian style homes. Development north of Pingry Place occurred in the early 1900s with the construction of more modern colonial style homes. An example is this well maintained home at 564 Westminster Ave. with the original wraparound porch intact.

The home was built in 1910 by Charles A. Canda, an engineer who lived there with his wife Ida. He was born in Summit in 1869. He was educated at public schools and at Stevens Institute, where he graduated in 1893. Canda joined the Brush Electric Light Co, New York, where he remained until 1899. He then became affiliated with the Canda Manufacturing Co., manufacturer of automobiles, which had a facility in Carteret. The rudimentary Auto-Quadricycle model was produced until the company closed in 1902. Canda was granted a number of patents, including a clamping device for tappets, wheels or shaft couplings, and an improvement on a machine for making tubes and tires. In 1902 he became part owner of the Chrome Steel Works, near Carteret, holding the office of secretary until his death in 1917.

Ida Holmes Canda was born in 1867 in Ridgefield. She studied music in New York and married Charles A. Canda in 1906. She was a Presbyterian who enjoyed automobiling, walking and music. Ida was opposed to the woman suffrage movement. The couple had no children.

Dr. John J. Blumberg, a general surgeon, had his office and residence there in the 1960s-70s period.

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Morey Home on Westminster Ave.

Mahlon Morey, cofounder of the Morey LaRue Laundry Co. and a City Councilman, lived in this home at 572 Westminster Ave. in the early 1900s. The large colonial style home has a beautiful wrap around front porch. Morey lived there with his wife Anna and daughter Helen. They had a live in servant, Mary Flanagan, whose room was on the third floor.



Lawn Party for Helen Morey, Elizabeth Daily Journal June 7, 1913

This photo provides a glimpse of the wealth and lifestyle of the Morey family. Their backyard was the scene of an elaborate birthday party for young daughter Helen and her friends. Music was provided for dancing on a raised platform built over the tennis court.

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Country Style Home on Westminster Ave.

This rustic looking home at 580 Westminster Ave. was built in the early 1900s. The architect combined elements of the Craftsman style, namely the second floor 4-windowed dormer and front porch with natural looking stone pillars, with a typical Queen Anne turret on the right side. Dark shingles added to the look of a country home in a suburban neighborhood.

The 1920 census listed Otto Mendle, 40, living there with his wife Janne, 40, and their 11 year old daughter Dorothy. Mendle was born in 1879 in Germany and came to this country in 1904. He was an embroidery manufacturer in New York.

The home remains in excellent condition today.

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Tudor Style Home on Westminster Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This Tudor style home with sharply angled roofs and arched doorways was built in the 1920s at 702 Westminster Ave. Tudors are popular in the Westminster section and represent a clear departure from the Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne architectural styles that dominated Elizabeth in the late 19th century. There is an identical home at 973 Coolidge Road in the Elmora section.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Wilbur J. Peets (1889-1981), a mechanical engineer at Singer Mfg. Co., and wife Mary (1891-1980) lived at 973 Coolidge Rd. from at least 1944 to 1949. Peets was born in Wisconsin, grew up in Tallon, Ill., and graduated from the U. of Cincinnati in 1913. He and his wife lived at 614 Emerson Ave. in 1920 and 725 Livingston Road in 1930. They had two children, Jane G. (about 1918-) and Robert G. (1924-1987). Wilbur and Mary were living in Plainfield at the time of their deaths."



Tudor Style Home on Denman Place

The Westminster section has some of the city's largest residences including this Tudor at 25 Denman Place. It was built in 1926 by Henry J. Miller, mechanical engineer and head of the patent office of the Singer Manufacturing Company. His father was Lebbeus B. Miller who was superintendent of the Singer works around 1900.

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Bloodgood Home on Morris Ave. 1889

The William E. Bloodgood home at 441 Morris Ave. was an example of the Greek Revival architectural style popular in the U. S. in the 1830-1860 period. Typical elements of this style include a rectangular plan with a side wing, gabled roof, horizontal frieze board under the cornice, paneled windows sometimes topped with a decorative pediment, transom window over the front door, decorative pillars on the front porch, and clapboard siding usually painted white. The Greek Revival style faded with the emergence of the Italianate and Queen Anne designs in the latter half of the 19th century.

William E. Bloodgood was born in New York in 1823 and graduated from the College of Physicians in 1847. In 1848 he married Margaret Jamison and they had six children. He never worked as a doctor but was a successful businessman and manufacturer up to 1875, when he retired with a fortune of \$500,000 (equivalent to \$9.7 million today). Bloodgood served as Justice of the Peace and Superintendent of Public Schools in Elizabeth for many years. In 1894 he moved to Llewellyn Park, NJ where he died in 1897.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The site is now a Burger King, but I remember the house pretty much as it was in the 1889 picture with the glass-enclosed porch and a large lawn on the east side of the house. It was torn down around 1960. The picture shows a large barn, which was destroyed by fire, according to a paragraph in the N.Y. Times, Sep 24, 1890 -- 'William E. Bloodgood's large barn on Morris Avenue, Elizabeth, was destroyed by fire last night. The loss will be about \$2000.' I do not know whether the barn was replaced."

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Atwater Home on Morris Ave.

A few of the old homes on Morris Ave. survive today as illustrated by no. 464. The Second Empire architectural style with a mansard roof was common in the 19th century. This home has been remodeled with an addition in the rear and enclosed front porch with separate entrances. It is now a multi-family apartment house.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The house at 464 Morris Ave. is first listed in city directories in 1876 when it was occupied by Henry Meeker, who is listed in various years as a clerk, banker, and cashier in New York. A prominent occupant of this house was Charles Sanford Atwater (1843-1913), born in Fairfield, Conn., a graduate of Princeton and Columbia Law School who set up a law practice in Elizabeth in 1866. He also served as superintendent of schools, 1878-79; city council president, 1887, and city attorney, 1895-96. He was appointed a judge of the Union County District Court in 1896 and 10 years later moved up to the Court of Common Pleas. Because of failing health, he resigned as judge in January 1913. He died a few months later at age 70. He was a trustee of Pingry School, a position held today by his great-grandson Edward S. Atwater IV.

Charles B. Atwater (1914-2000), a grandson of our subject, was a teacher and headmaster at Pingry. In 1876, Edward S. Atwater married Gertrude Oakley of Elizabeth and they lived at 161 Orchard St. before moving to 464 Morris Ave. about 1888. By 1910 they were living at 513 Westminster Ave. Their son Edward S. Atwater Jr. and his wife Jennifer Brown Atwater resided at 15 Denman Place until her death in 1961.

Later occupants were Robert F. Mautner, an osteopathic physician (1942) and Arthur G. Stull, head of the patent drafting department of Babcock & Wilcox in New York, who was living there at the time of his death in 1960."

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Morris Ave. View West from Stiles St.

This early 1900s postcard shows elegant Victorian homes graced the tree shaded block between Stiles St. and Parker Road. Note the trolley tracks in the road.

Arnold Samuelsen: "One or more of the children in the picture could be those of James and Mary Kennedy, who lived in the corner house, 504 Morris Ave., from before 1910 until after 1920, according to census records. James Kennedy was a tugboat captain and owner of Kennedy Towing Lines, which in 1907 owned four tugs, according to the website of Tugboats Enthusiasts Society of the Americas. His oldest son, Charles A. Kennedy (1890-1946) took over the company and sold it about 1941, his obituary in the New York Times said. The other children and their birth years were Jennie L. (1892), Elsie M. (1895), Marian L. (1899), Grace (1906) and Alvin J. (1909). One or more of them might be in the picture, depending on when it was taken. In 1930 the Kennedy's lived at 6 Ursino Place. The house at 504 Morris Ave. made news in 1930 when the New York Times reported, under the headline, "Neighbors Halt Wreckers Attacking the Wrong House": Elizabeth, N.J., Aug. 8 -- Alertness of neighbors in the vicinity of Morris Avenue and Stiles Street prevented the razing of a house owned by Walter C. Mooney, 504 Morris Avenue."

A few of the old homes remain today but most of the street has been commercialized.

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The top photo is a view of Morris Ave. looking east from Stiles St. It was taken in 1929 after a repaving project. A trolley once traveled along Morris Ave. but this photo shows the tracks and overhead electric wires are gone. Note the stately homes, including some classic Victorian designs, that once lined the street. Today's view shows a conversion to apartments and commercial buildings. but with a few of the old homes surviving.

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Voorhees Home on Morris Ave. Then and Now

The Italianate style home with a rooftop cupola at 516 Morris Ave. was owned by Mr. John Voorhees in 1889

Arnold Samuelsen: "John Voorhees, born March 1840 in N.J., and his wife Elizabeth appear in the 1900 and 1910 census as living at 516 Morris Ave. His occupation in 1900 is given as "capitalist". Their neighbors include Philip Diehl and his wife Amelia, who moved from 217 Orchard St. (where he invented the ceiling fan) to 508 Morris Ave. about 1888, according to city directories. By 1910, according to the census, Philip and Amelia have moved to 528 Morris Ave., which is the home of their only child, Clara, and her husband Max Herman Keppler, a broker. Philip Diehl died in that house April 7, 1913, according to a death notice in the N.Y. Times. In the 1940s, Memorial Osteopathic Hospital took over the old Keppler house. The house was razed in the 1950's after the hospital moved to Union. An apartment house was built in its place.

The old Voorhees house was later occupied by Nathan Kuhn, a plumber, whose family owned it into the 1990s.

Some other people living on that block of Morris Ave. in 1900, with age and occupation: No. 532, George A. Hamilton, 55, electrical engineer; No. 528, John Fulton, 54, stock broker; No. 520, David C. Belles, factory manager; No. 512, Joseph H. Keenan, physician."

The Vorhees home is still in use and was recently remodeled (right photo).

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Former Battenhuasen Home on Morris Ave. Photo Courtesy of Cori Paskevicius-Batt.

Barbara Battenhausen asked about the history of her family home at 519 Morris Ave. It was located near Parker Road, opposite the old Memorial Osteopathic Hospital, but it was razed a few years ago for the construction of the Dr. Antonio Pantoja School No. 27.

The home represented the Colonial Revival architectural style that became popular in the early 20th century, replacing the Victorian styles of older Elizabeth homes. Note the decorative leaded glass windows on the upper floors and the impressive pediment atop the front porch, a classical design element of the Beaux-Arts period.

Barbara said her grandfather Michele Spirito, an immigrant from Italy who owned a shoemaker's shop on East Jersey St., purchased the home from the wealthy resident who built it. Arnold Samuelsen researched its history and reported:

"The first owner of 519 Morris Ave. was Jacob Reuter, born 1859 in Elizabeth of German parents. He operated a saloon at 123 Broad St. from about 1890 on. He also resided at that address, according to the 1900 and 1910 censuses, with his wife Sophie and three daughters and a son who apparently died in childhood. After 1910 he moved to the new house at 519 Morris Ave. (that address does not appear in the 1900 and 1910 censuses). There is a story in the New York Times in 1915 that John Reuter (should be Jacob Reuter) of 519 Morris Ave. fired two shots at a thief who fled with \$1,000 worth of his daughter's jewelry. In the 1930 census, Jacob Reuter lists the value of his Morris Ave. home at \$35,000. He is 70 years old and lists no occupation. He and his wife are the only occupants of the house. On the 1920 census he gives his occupation as cafe owner.

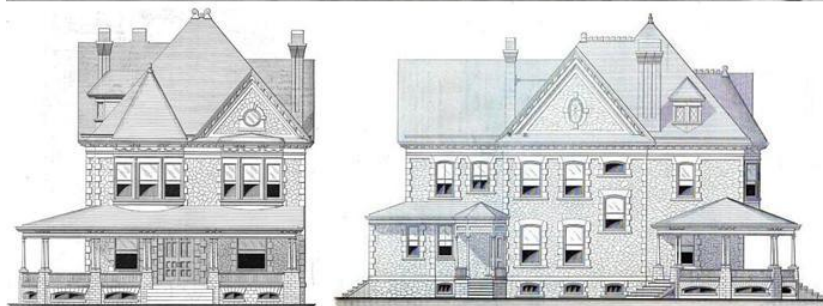
Mrs. Sophie Braun Reuter died in 1933 and Jacob Reuter died Oct. 1, 1941 at home, according to a one-paragraph obituary in the New York Times. It does not give his address, so I do not know if he was living at 519 Morris Ave. at that time. He is described as a former fire commissioner and was survived by three married daughters. A brother, long-time Elizabeth policeman John Reuter Sr., died in 1935.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

In the 1941 through 1951 city directories, 519 Morris Ave. is listed under "furnished rooms". The operator is Mrs. Helma Johnson, widow of Charles

Barbara Battenhausen said "Jacob Reuter seems to have been a real character. I once met by sheer coincidence the niece of Helma Johnson. In fact, Helma Johnson has historically been known as the ghost who wandered our house for many years. My grandfather owned the house during the time it was functioning as a rooming house and Helma would collect the rent from the tenants. As a child, my mother remembers seeing the butler standing in the window. My grandfather also owned two additional properties on Morris Avenue, numbers 411 and 415. He resided in 411 after coming here from Italy."

Nos. 411 and 415 Morris Ave. were razed years ago. Ira Benjamin Wheeler, who graduated Lehigh University in 1907 with an M.E. degree, lived at 411 Morris Ave. in 1909. He worked in the operating department of the Railway Steel Spring Co. in New York City. I found no information about no. 415 Morris Ave., which today is the site of Trinitas Diagnostic Imaging.



Fulton Mansion on Morris Ave. 1897. Later Memorial Osteopathic Hospital.

Stockbroker John Fulton, Jr. built this beautiful home at 528 Morris Ave., across from Parker Road, in 1896. The architect was David B. Provoost of Elizabeth, who designed many fine residences in the city. The front and side views of the Queen Anne design are shown in the bottom images. The home was built with granite stone from a New Jersey quarry and trimmed with red brick. It had a black slate roof and gutters lined with copper. The home was lighted for both gas and electricity. Heating was by hot water pipes placed behind the plastered walls. The first floor had a reception hall, parlor, music room, dining room, kitchen, butler's pantry, laundry area and a bathroom. The second floor had six bedrooms and a full bathroom. The attic had rooms for servants and storage.

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The home was later occupied by Philip A. Diehl, electrical engineer and founder of the Diehl Manufacturing Co., a major supplier to the Singer Sewing Machine Co. Diehl died in 1913. In the 1920s, Max Keppler, a New York City purchasing agent, was living there with his wife Clara Diehl.

Memorial Osteopathic Hospital took over the home in the 1940s. It was demolished shortly after 1954 when the hospital moved to Union. An apartment building stands there today.

I thank Arnold Samuelsen for contributing to this history.



Crane House on Morris Ave.

Many of Elizabeth's historic homes have been bulldozed to make way for convenience stores, gas stations or apartment buildings. The Crane House at 556 Morris Ave., built before the Revolutionary War, is an example.

A description of the Crane House was published in the book *New Jersey A Guide to Its Present and Past*, Federal Writers' Project, 1939:

"The Crane House, 556 Morris Ave., is of New England Colonial type, having white-painted siding, second-story dormer windows and half-windows below the eaves, as well as the customary one-and-one-story ell that served as the service wing. Built before the Revolution, the house has been continuously occupied by the Crane family; the first of the Cranes was Stephen, who settled in Elizabethtown in 1665. An old-fashioned garden around the original well has some of the oldest and finest hollyhocks in Elizabeth. Seeds from these plants have produced blossoms almost black."

Arnold Samuelsen added: "ELIZABETH, N.J., Aug. 25 [1932]. -- Moses Miller Crane, for a half century an official of the Union County Trust Company here and a director for many years of the National Fire and Marine Insurance Company, died suddenly of a heart attack last night in the house at 556 Morris Avenue where he was born sixty-eight years ago.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

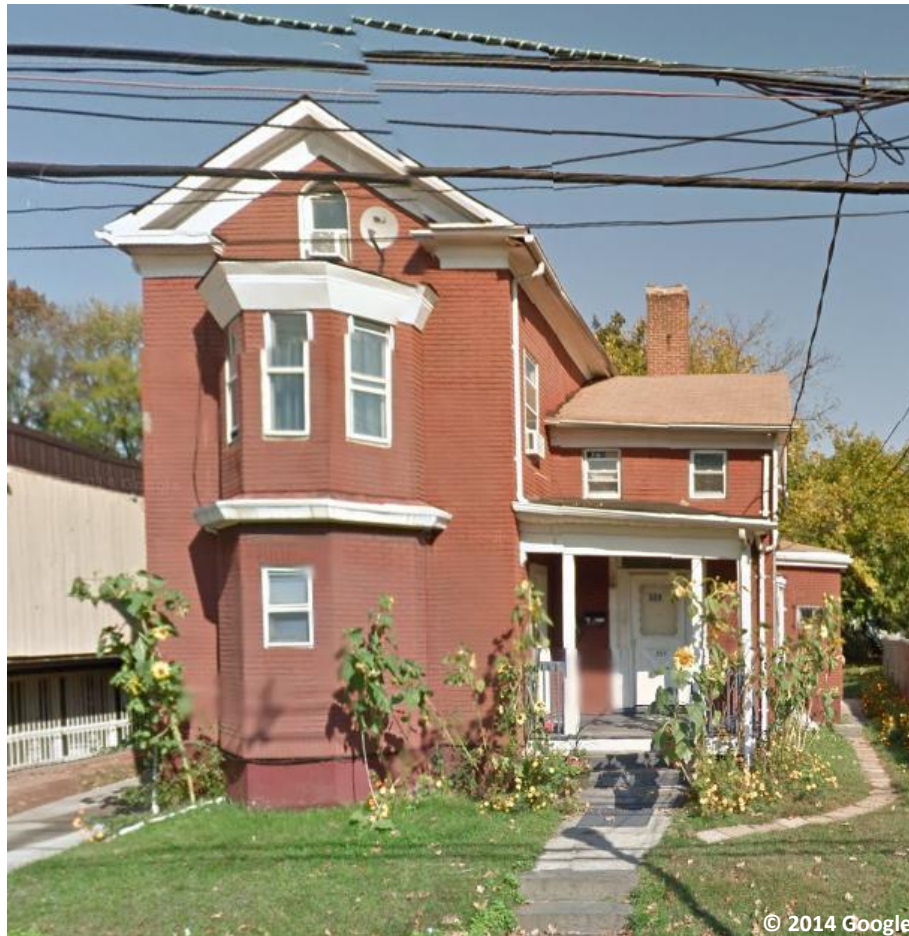
Mr. Crane was the son of John Williams Crane, a former judge of the Common Pleas Court, and Anna Wilson Crane. After his graduation from Pingry School, he entered the Union County Trust Company's trust department. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the New Jersey Genealogical Society and the First Presbyterian Church.

The Crane homestead, a tree-sheltered landmark, has been in possession of the Crane family for several generations. Its occupants are descendants of Stephen Crane, one of the original group that settled here in 1664.

Moses Crane is survived by a widow, Mrs. Nellie Crane; three sons, Harold Lyon Crane, Frederick Stephen Crane and William Winnie Crane; a brother, Henry Wilson Crane, and four grandchildren. -- New York Times, Aug. 26, 1932

Moses Miller Crane's widow, Nellie Lewis Crane, died in that house on July 3, 1947. She was 82."

The Crane House was later demolished to make way for a 7-Eleven convenience store.



Franklin L. Pope Home on Morris Ave.

The house at 559 Morris Ave., across the street from the former site of the Crane House, has an interesting history. Thomas Edison lived here in 1869-70 with Franklin L. Pope (1840-1895). Pope was telegrapher, electrical engineer, inventor, explorer and patent attorney. He developed a system which tracked and printed the prices of gold and stocks. Pope partnered with Thomas Edison in 1869, forming the company Pope, Edison & Company Electrical Engineers, and invented a one-wire telegraph in 1870. This telegraph is now known as a stock ticker, and

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was widely used in large cities for exchange quotations. Pope's partnership with Edison ended shortly after it was formed.

Pope was president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers from 1886 - 1887. He was an editor of the magazine *Electrical Engineer* and also worked as a patent attorney for Western Union Telegraph Company.

Pope later moved to Massachusetts where he was killed in 1895 by an accidental electrocution of 3,000 volts in the basement of his home.

Arnold Samuelsen commented: "The house pictured is at 559 Morris Ave., where Thomas Edison lived in 1869-70 with Franklin Leonard Pope and Pope's parents and brothers. The Crane house was across the street, between Morris Ave. and Cherry St., and was demolished in the 1960's or '70's in order to build a 7-11. In his column in the *Elizabeth Daily Journal*, Bill Earls charged the Southland Corporation with "cultural rape" when plans were announced to tear down the old house. One of the Crane descendants living at the time was not concerned about the loss of his ancestral home, which had been vacant for some time; he said something to the effect that "no one important ever lived there, nothing important ever happened there."



Henry W. Pope and Family. Photo Courtesy of Arnold Samuelsen.

Henry W. Pope, the younger brother of Franklin L. Pope, lived nearby in a Victorian style home at 536 Cherry St. The two-story dwelling had a wraparound front porch with a small gazebo on one side. In 1919 the home was owned by Edmund King, a professional engineer in the firm Edwards and King at 280 North Broad St. The home was later replaced by an apartment building.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The earliest resident of 536 Cherry St., in about 1880, was Henry William Pope (1848-1916), pictured above with sons William Henry (1873-) and Irving Wainwright (1875-). He was a pioneer in the

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development of the telegraph, telephone and electric power industries, as were his older brothers Franklin Leonard Pope of 559 Morris Ave. and Edgewood Farm in El Mora and Ralph Wainwright Pope of 570 Cherry St.

In 1890 the residence at 536 Cherry St. was the scene of the wedding of Grace Electa Pope, the eldest child of Henry and Lucy Pope, to Alexander S. Brown of Morristown. "A pretty home wedding," the New York Times called it."



Case House on Jefferson Ave. at Magnolia Ave.

Jefferson Ave. was the location of elegant Victorian homes in the late 19th century. The home at 401 Jefferson Ave., at the corner of Magnolia Ave., was known as the "Case House" when built about 1879. It was designed by Elizabeth architect A. J. Bicknell who lived nearby on Madison Ave. By 1889 the home was owned by William M. Oliver, one of the founders of Oliver & Drake Co. druggists at 134 Broad St. The home has been replaced by a gas station. But the old home on the far left of the 1889 photo still stands today.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Oliver & Drake, the drug store, lasted into the 1950's at 293 N. Broad St., next to the Daily Journal building. It had no soda fountain, which most drug stores had in those days. It moved after combining with another drug store. The earliest reference to Oliver & Drake in a city directory is 1872 when it is located at 202 Broad St.; it was one of five drug stores on Broad St. and among 11 in the city. By 1876 it has moved to 132 Broad St. (the Arcade building) and an advertisement proclaims "Open All Night". The post office, also in the Arcade building, advises that Oliver & Drake sells stamps "all hours day and night". By 1901 the drug store does not advertise its hours but has a telephone, No. 1. Fifty years later their telephone number was ELizabeth 2-1234. William M. Oliver, born in New Jersey in 1843 of English parents, was active in Democratic Party politics and served briefly as a freeholder and county clerk in the 1890's. He also was a partner, with Joseph J. Carter, in Oliver & Carter, a wood and coal firm at 64 W. Jersey St. Oliver lived at 401 Jefferson Ave. as late as 1920. His wife Sarah died some time after the 1910 census. They had no children. Jonathan Baker Drake (1841-1904) lived at 147 Jefferson Ave."

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Daland Home on Jefferson Ave. 1889

Large Victorian homes, some built as early as 1860, once lined Jefferson Ave. opposite Jefferson Park. This 1889 photo shows the home of William B. Daland at 440 Jefferson Ave. at Anna St. Daland owned the Elizabeth Clothiers store at 208 Broad St. near the Arch in the 1880s. He and his wife Alexena had five sons and three daughters. Living with them were Alexena's mother and three servants.

Arnold Samuelsen reported "There is a paragraph in the New York Times, Nov. 15, 1890, that "William B. Daland & Sons, the largest clothing firm in Elizabeth, are going to retire from the business, and after selling out the stock will remove to Harriman, Tenn." If they ever went to Tennessee, they soon came back to Elizabeth because in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, William and his wife are living at 1201 Chestnut St. His occupation is listed as commercial traveler -- blue book."

By 1922, according to the Sanborn map of this street, the home was remodeled with a four-story circular tower bridging the gap between the side and front. The roof may have been raised at that time.

In 1929 the home was occupied by Dr. William Hodges, former president of the New Jersey Dental Society. He died there in that year. By 1940 the home had become a boarding house owned by Thomas J. Harvey, who worked in the maintenance department of a brewery. Also living there were his wife Margaret, daughters Ann and Margaret, and eight lodgers.

Harvey died in 1966 and his daughters inherited the home. In 1968 the Sigma Theta Chi fraternity of Kean College purchased the home, known as the Harvey estate, for use as a residence. A first floor addition on the left side was constructed in the 1970s.

The fraternity home caught fire in 1983, leading to its replacement by an apartment building.

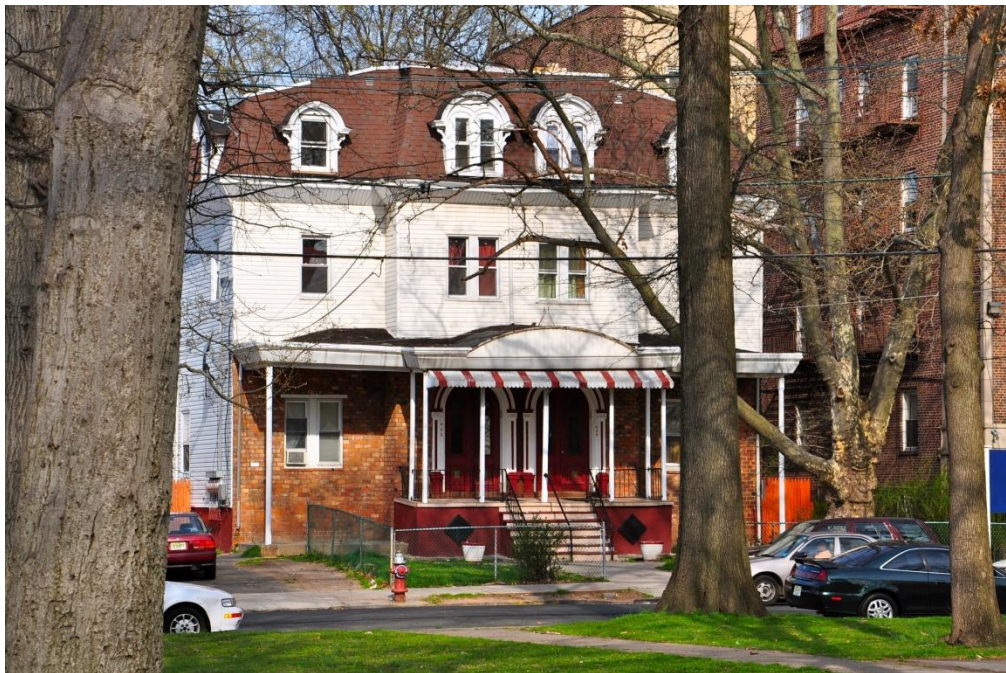
I thank Ellen Clutter Brodowski for contributing details about the acquisition of the Harvey estate by the fraternity.

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William S. Mersereau

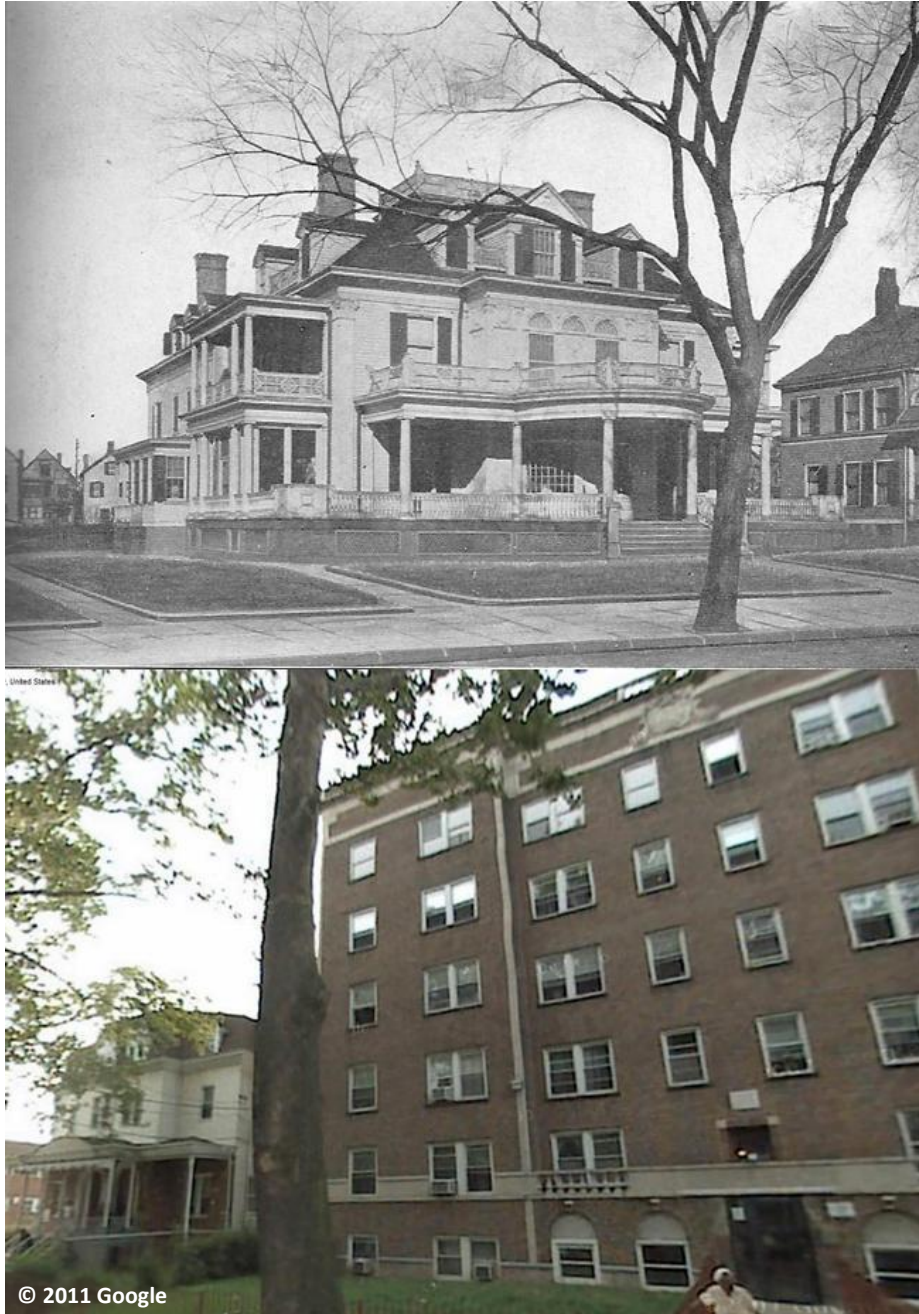
William S. Mersereau, born in New York City in 1837, lived at 458 Jefferson Ave. from 1880 until his death in 1910. In 1856 he joined the wholesale drug firm Schieffelin & Co. as a mail boy and worked his way up to a partnership in 1880. When the firm was incorporated in 1903, he was named vice president. An avid bicycle rider, he was often seen wheeling around the streets of Elizabeth. A stable for horses and carriages was on the property. He and his family summered in their home in the Adirondacks, where he enjoyed fishing from a canoe. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.



Victorian Duplex Home on Jefferson Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This duplex home at 462-464 Jefferson Ave. is the last Victorian left on this block. It was built between 1889 and 1903 as a duplex which was uncommon at the time. In 1919 James H. Hand, an accountant and member of the Board of Public Works, was living at no. 462. Catherine M. Moore, a music teacher, was living at no. 464. Most of the original ornamental features have been removed or covered with vinyl siding over the years. But the twin arched doorways are still impressive, each with a double door fitted with glass panels.

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Young Mansion on Jefferson Ave.

Augustus F. Young, a New York merchant, resided in the mansion shown in this 1907 photo. The architecture is the Colonial Revival style which began to replace Victorian designs around 1900. Young died in 1912 at age 65, survived by his wife and three daughters. The home was eventually razed and replaced with the multistory apartment building shown in today's view. The Victorian home on the left is the last surviving example of 19th century architecture on this block.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Augustus Young is living at 474 Jefferson Ave. in the 1900 and 1910 census (his lots are 466 to 474 according to the 1910 census) with his second wife Julia and three daughters from a first marriage. He has three live-in servants in 1900 and two in 1910. His occupation is listed as fruit merchant in 1900 and commission merchant -- produce in 1910."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Jefferson Ave. View North from Mary St.

This 1911 postcard is a view north along Jefferson Ave. from Mary St. In the late 19th-early 20th century, Jefferson Ave. was an upscale residential neighborhood with shade trees lining the street. Note the trolley tracks which provided service from Kellogg Park to Broad St. via East Broad St.

The postcard was sent by Mrs. Charles Moore of nearby 1158 Mary St. Charles Moore was a stair builder according to the 1919 City Directory.

The Victorian home on the corner with the ornate front porch was at 502 Jefferson Ave. It was occupied in 1919 by Mrs. Sarah Clark, widow of Cornelius H. Clark. He was the superintendent of the Sunday School of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in the 1870s. The 1910 census indicated Clark was 67 years old and his wife Sarah was 65. They had a live in servant, Margaret Smith, 48, from Ireland.

This home was demolished years ago and replaced with an apartment building.

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Top-Tree Felled on Mary St. by Storm in 1944. Bottom-Home Today.

A storm on September 14, 1944 downed a tree in front of the home at 1117 Mary St. near Jefferson Ave. The Victorian home dates to at least 1882 when civil engineer W.S. Chapin lived there. In the early 1900s, up to at least 1919, Arthur Van Vechten lived there. Along with his son Robert, he operated the A. Van Vechten & Son Co. in New York, a distributor of hardware, manufacturing and mill supplies. Today the home is a multi-family and well maintained.

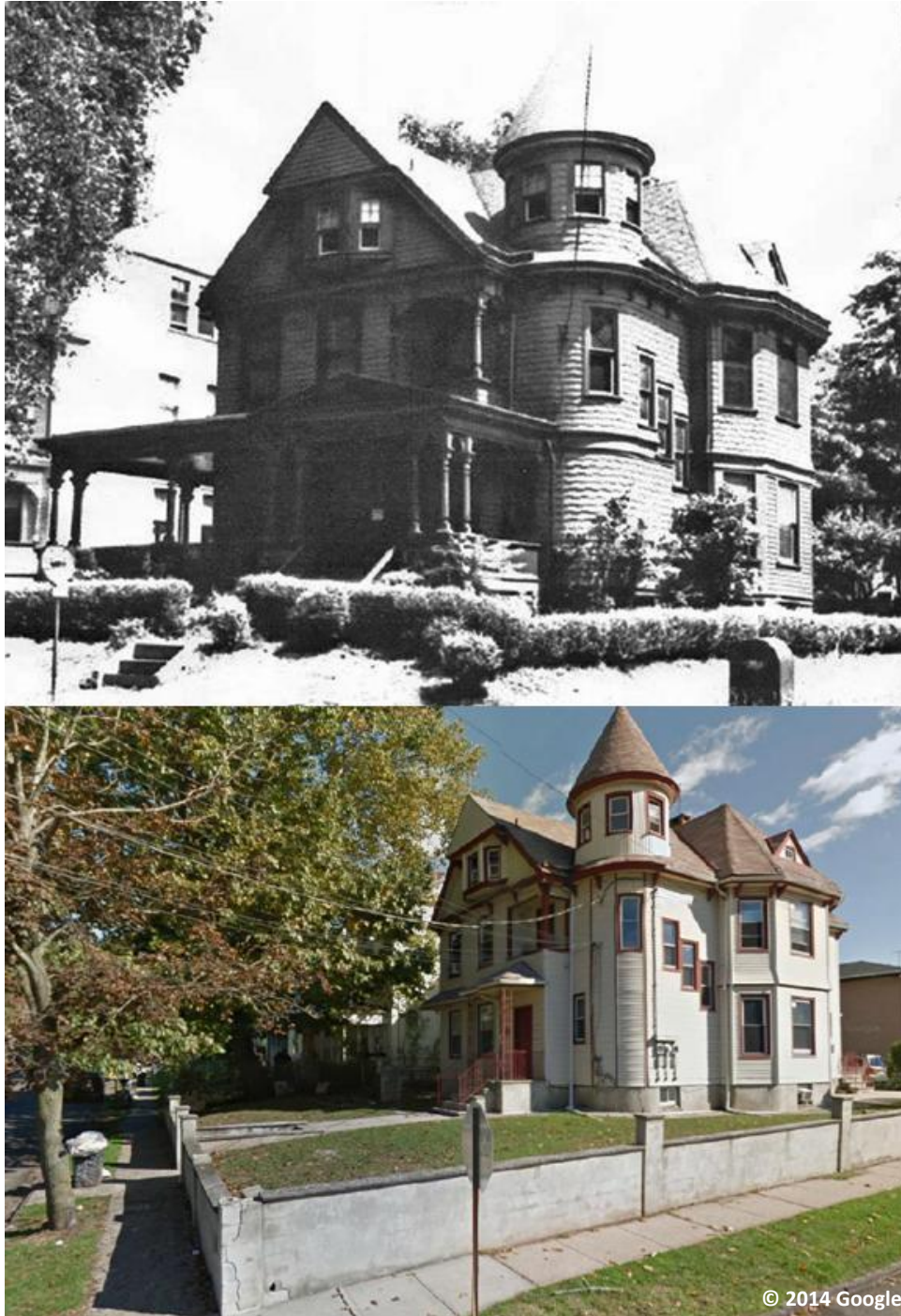
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Distinctive Home on Jefferson Ave.

This unusual L-shaped home at 530 Jefferson Ave. was built in 1902. Note the wide overhanging eaves supported by large braces. The front porch wraps around both sides of the home and has not been enclosed. Henry Leahy was living there in 1919. He owned the Lehigh Slate Roofing Co. at 1220 East Broad. St. and a florist shop at 1169 East Jersey St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Queen Anne Home on Jefferson Ave. Top Photo Courtesy of Engel Family.

The three-story tower with conical roof characterizes this home as a Queen Anne design. The location is 551 Jefferson Ave. at Julia St. Walter F. Prince, superintendent of the foundry department of the Worthington Co., lived here in 1905. The 1919 City Directory lists the resident as Theophilus N. Winslow, a buyer in New York.

The Engel family, residents beginning in 1968, said the fireplaces had marble aprons, carved mantels and etched mirrors above them. The side of the house had stained glass windows. A fire in 1982 destroyed the original

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

wraparound front porch. The interior architectural details were lost when the home was sold and converted to a multi-family. The exterior of the home remains in excellent condition today.



Second Empire Home on Jefferson Ave.

This Victorian home at 597 Jefferson Ave. at Fairmount Ave. dates to the early 1900s. It is one of the few Second Empire style homes in the city with a stucco finish. Note the unusual bell shaped dormer in the front.

Earl S. Dravis, a salesman for the Grand Union Tea Co., was living there in 1919. His next door neighbor was Joseph E. Ismay, who was a grocer in New York.

The home has been converted to a multi-family or rooming house, which is typical for many of Elizabeth's once grand homes. The decorative carved brackets under the eaves have been covered by vinyl siding. Next door, the original brackets remain intact.

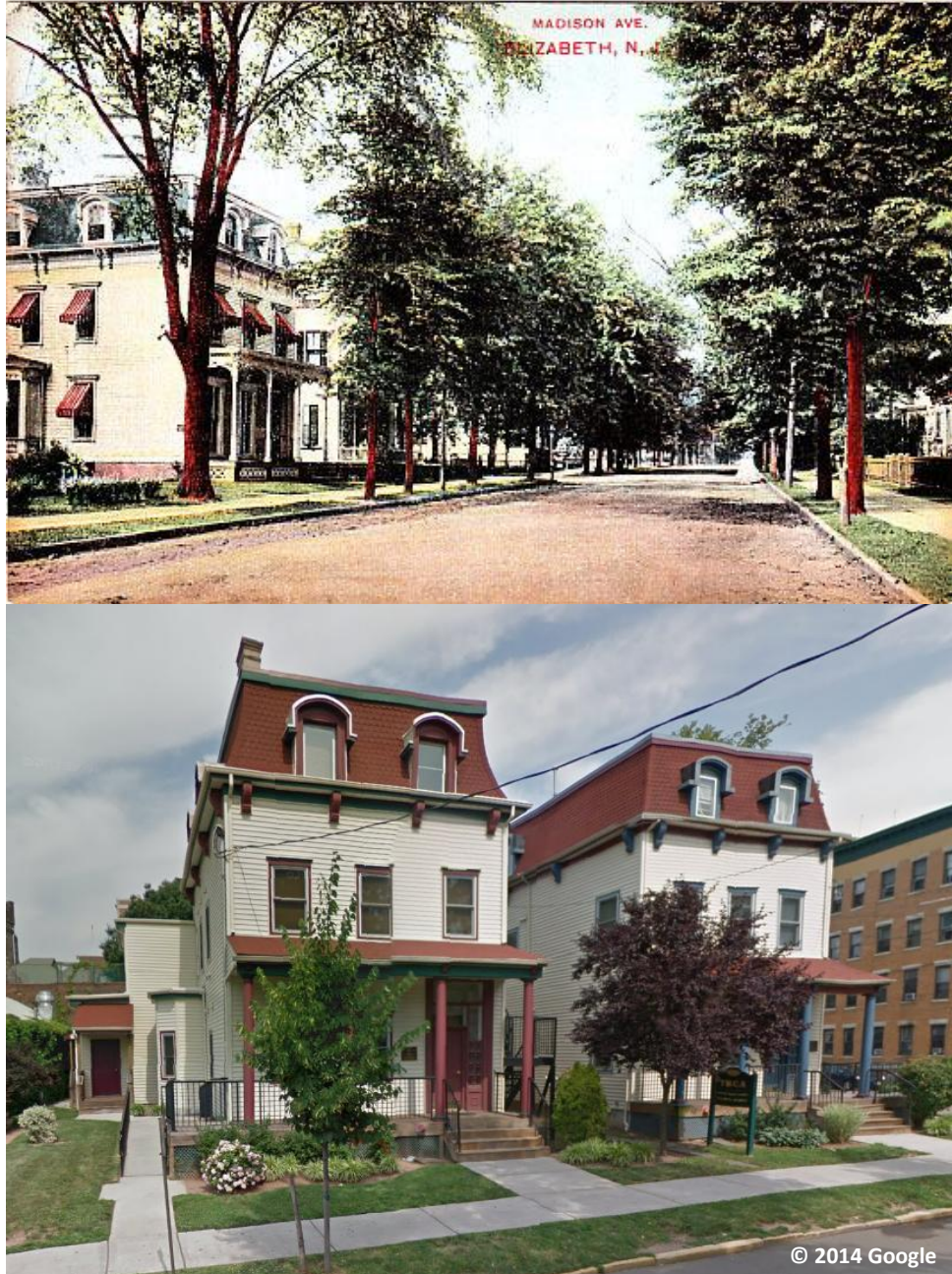
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



The two homes at the northeast corner of East Jersey St. and Madison Ave., facing Scott Park, date to 1905 or earlier. They represent the Greek Revival architectural style and are mirror images of each other.

Today these homes at 1089-91 East Jersey St. are used by the Flynn House of New Jersey, Inc. for treatment of drug addiction.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Homes on Madison Ave. near East Jersey St.

The homes at 110 (left) and 114 (right) Madison Ave. date to 1889 or earlier. In 1919 Charles F. Jones, a dentist, was living at no. 110 and Nelson L. Pollard, an electrical engineer for Public Service, was living at no. 114.

In 2005 the homes were renovated by the YMCA and are known as The George and Madeline Burry houses, which provide 16 units of transitional housing for homeless women and children.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Second Empire Home on Madison Ave.

This home is at 166 Madison Ave. next door to the Mt. Teman Church, and opposite William St. It dates to 1889 or earlier. The architecture is Victorian Second Empire. The mansard roof provided a bonus third floor used by large families or live in servants. This home has an unusual convex roof that bulges out, creating more interior space than the typical mansard concave roof. The original roof was probably slate. The original shingle or clapboard siding was replaced with faux brick asphalt siding. In 1919, Charles Cree, in the trucking business, was living there.

The home was recently remodeled, with the removal of the porch enclosure, and repainted for an improved appearance.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



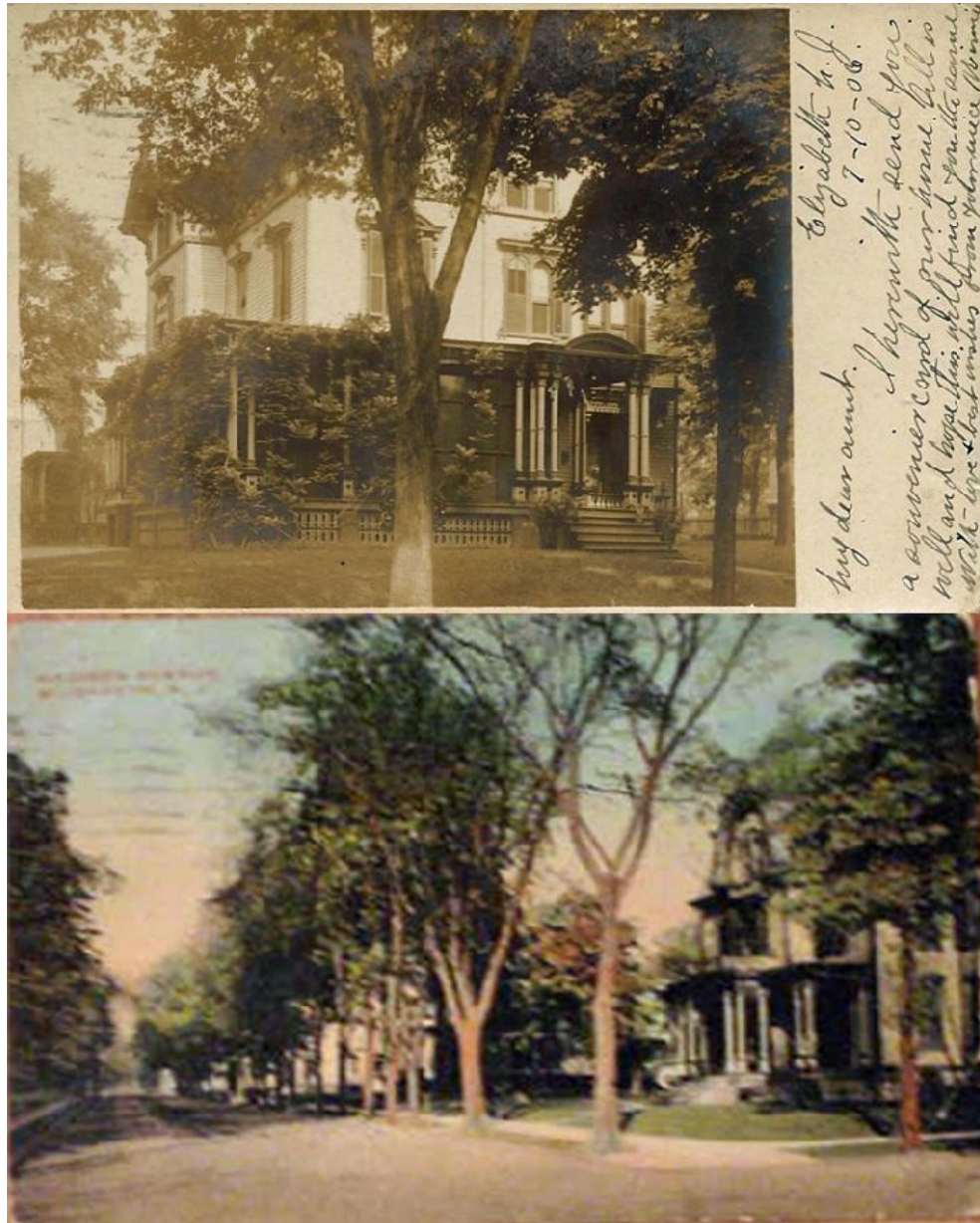
Nesbitt Funeral Home on Madison Ave. at William St.

The Nesbitt Funeral Home at 165 Madison Ave. is one of the few examples of a brick three-story Victorian home in Elizabeth. Although the front and rear have been extensively remodeled, this side view from William St. shows many of the original architectural details remain, including the dormer windows in the mansard roof, sculptured wood brackets under the eaves and pediments over the second floor windows.

In 1919 the home was occupied by Harold I. Traver, who was a proof reader for a printing company in New York.

The Nesbitt Funeral Home is owned by a black family. The oldest black owned funeral home in the city is the Smith Funeral Home on North Broad St. The business relocated there after the original funeral home on Cherry St. burned down some years ago. The Hicks Funeral Home at 655 Court St. was another black owned business, established in 1973. It closed in 2006 after founder Evan J. Hicks Jr. retired. He died in 2012.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



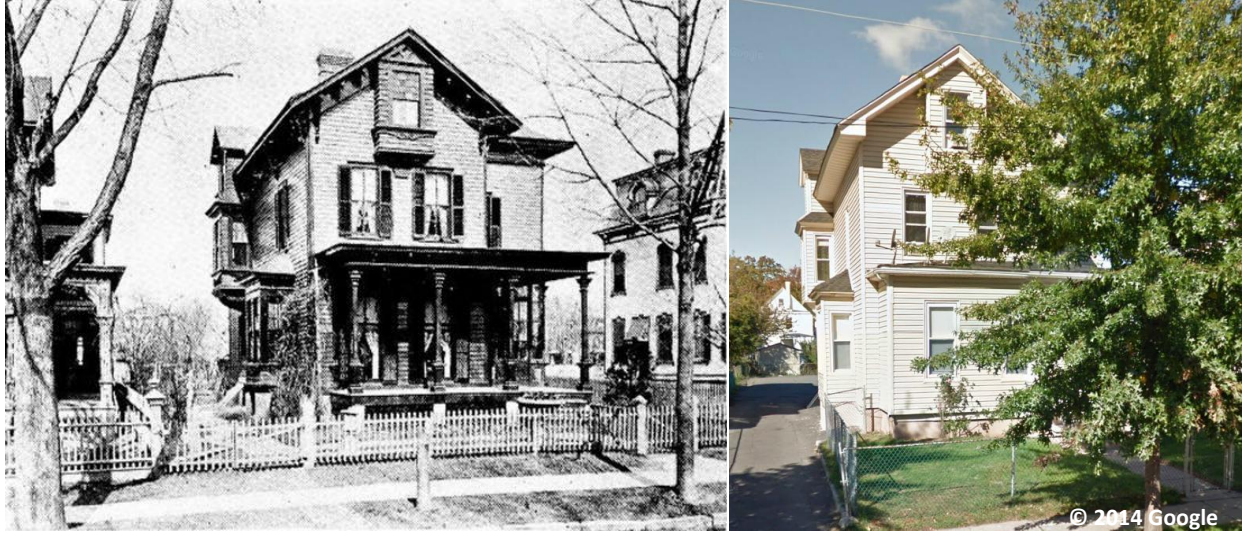
Wittman Home on Madison Ave.

The postcard at top is dated 1906 and was mailed from Elizabeth by a woman named Minnie. She says it is a photo of her home. The unique porch with an arch and decorative pillars, along with the shutters and eyebrow arches over the windows, reminded me of the home at 451 Madison Ave., corner of Anna St., shown in the bottom postcard.

The name of the original owner of this 19th century Victorian home is unknown, but Mr. and Mrs. August Wittmann were living there in 1921 according to the City Directory. Wittmann was the owner of the Hotel Wittmann located at 221 Broad St. near the Arch. It was earlier known as the Burkely Hotel. Wittmann was arrested in 1920 during a Prohibition raid at several establishments in Elizabeth. The hotel's bar and restaurant were padlocked in 1931, presumably for Prohibition violations. The building became the Albert Lifson & Son Furniture store which closed around 1980.

This beautiful old home was eventually demolished and replaced with an apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Home of Architect Amos J. Bicknell on Madison Ave.

This 1889 photo is of the home of Amos J. Bicknell (1839-1891) at 538 Madison Ave. Bicknell was an architect who established A. J. Bicknell & Co. in New York in 1865 to publish architectural pattern books. His modest wood frame home represents a Greek Revival design. The home remains today in good condition after remodeling and enclosure of the front porch.

In 1919, Ewald Broeker lived there. He owned a saloon and the Union Square Hotel on Elizabeth Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Clay Home on Madison Ave.

John Clay Jr. a representative of the pharmaceutical firm Parke, Davis & Co. in New York, had his home at 841 Madison Ave. in 1889. The home was opposite Kellogg Park and near Fanny St. Clay was a member of the City Council. This home reflected the Italianate architectural style prevalent in Elizabeth in the 19th century. This elegant home was razed in 1920 for construction of the apartment building shown in today's view.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Large Home on Anna St. at Madison Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This beautiful home with a large wraparound porch is located at 1100 Anna St. at Madison Ave., opposite Jefferson Park. Note the medallion in the pediment over the front porch. Painting the trim in vibrant colors was also popular in the early 1900s. In 1919 William J. Shearer, former Superintendent of Schools, was living there.

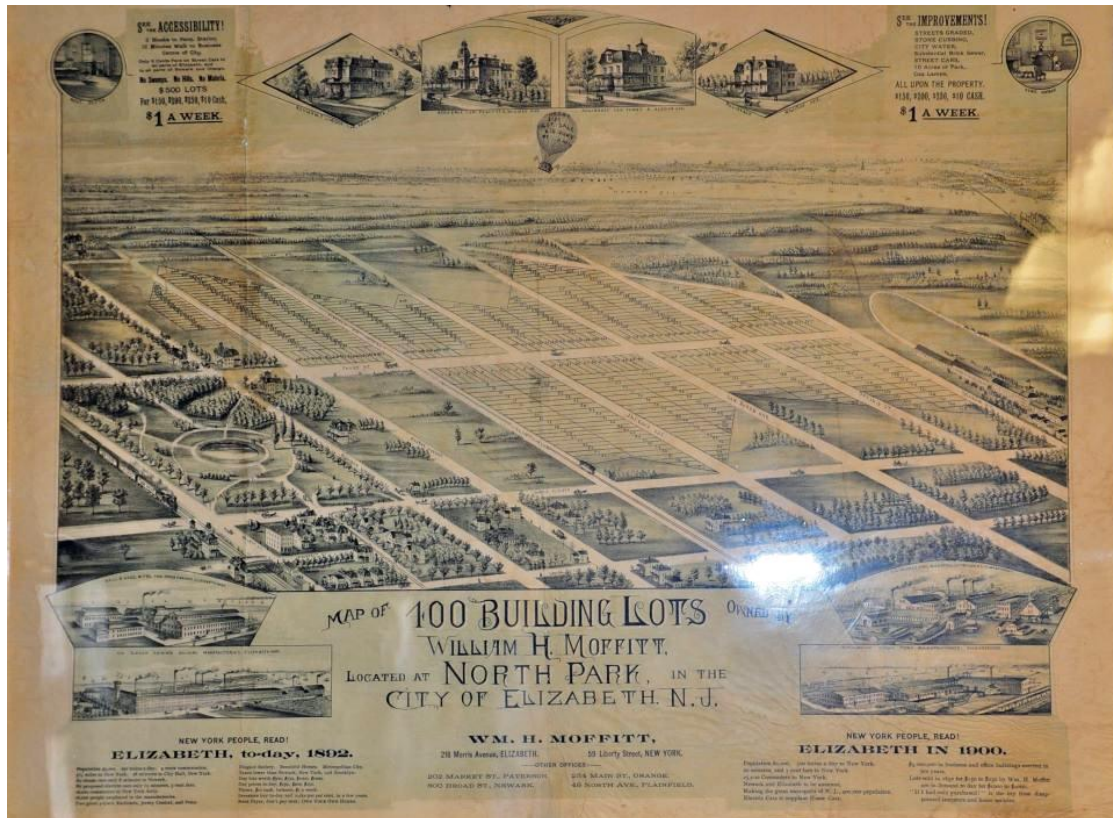
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Schneider Home on Adams Ave.

This 2-story red brick home is at 599 Adams Ave. at the corner of Fairmount Ave. It is one of the few all brick homes in the city. The turret with the conical roof is typical of the Queen Anne architectural style. It was built in 1910. In 1919 Louis Schmieder was living there. He owned a fleet of 11 Pierce Arrow trucks used for hauling stone, sand and coal.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Map Advertising 400 Building Lots in North Park (Kellogg Park) Area 1892

In 1892 builder William H. Moffitt promoted the development of 400 lots in the area of North Park, later called Kellogg Park.



Drawings of Four Homes at top of 1892 Map

The four large homes at the top of the map were located at:

- 1) 815 Madison Ave. opposite Kellogg Park. The 1919 City Directory lists N. A. Palmer, a general contractor, living there.
- 2) 851 Madison Ave. and Fanny St., the southeast corner. It had a distinctive 4-story tower typical of the Italianate villa architectural style. The home was destroyed by fire sometime before 1919. The photo below was taken by Elizabeth photographer Harry J. Fromm.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



"Early Morning Blaze" by Harry J. Fromm Destroyed Home at 851 Madison Ave

3) 1103 Fanny St. and Madison Ave., the northwest corner. It was occupied 1924-1926 by Oscar Bluemner, Medalist of the Academy of Art and Architecture, and a notable Modernistic painter of the 20th century. He painted several scenes of Elizabeth. Bluemner was destitute in 1938 and committed suicide. His painting of a farm in New Jersey sold for \$5.3 million at Christie's auction in 2011.

4) 901 Madison Ave. and Fanny St., the northeast corner. Joseph G. Powers, a civil engineer, was living there in 1919. His son Jerome was a student at Rutgers College.

These magnificent homes near Kellogg Park were demolished after 1954 to make way for new homes and apartment buildings.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

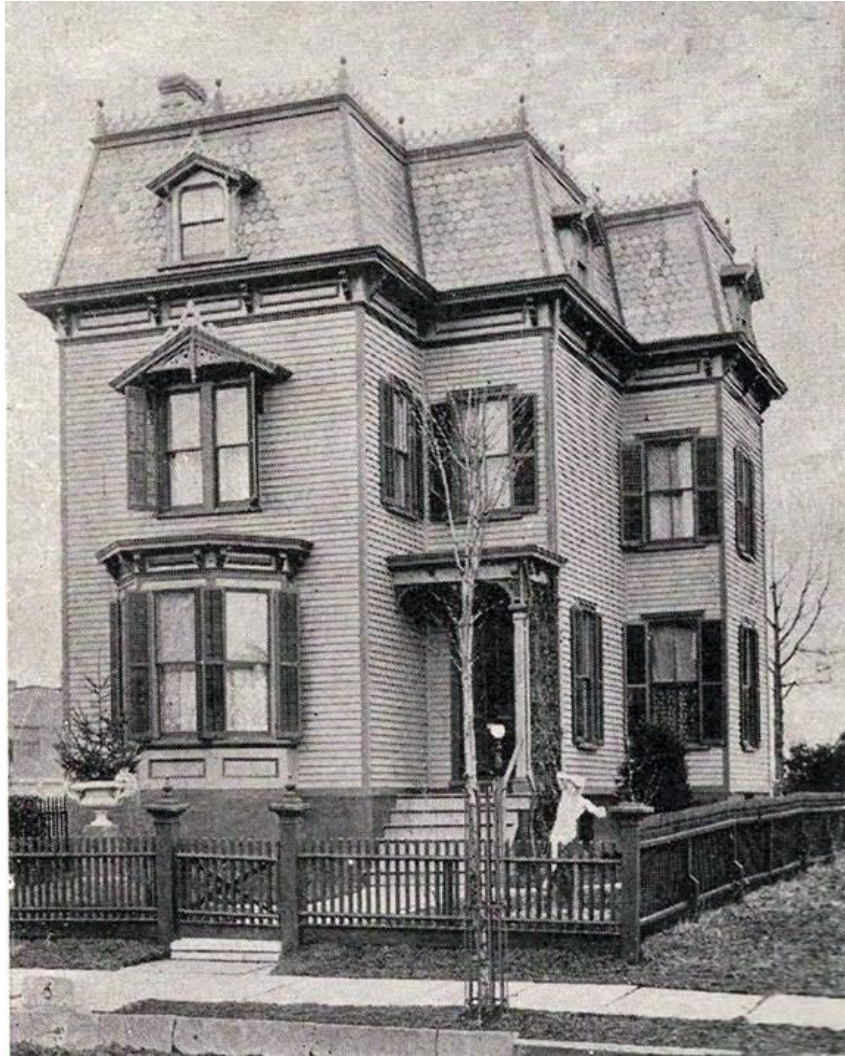


Home at 570 Madison Ave.

The home at 570 Madison Ave. is seen in this 1950s era photo taken by a realtor. A late 1940s Studebaker is parked in front. The home was built sometime between 1903 and 1919 when the City Directory of that year listed the resident as William T. Walker, a carpenter.

I remember when realtors put photos like these in the display windows of their offices. The list price was \$13,700. The vinyl sided, 3 bedroom, 1 bath home remains today and was recently listed for sale at \$75,000. The adjoining vacant lot now has a modern looking home on it.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bird Home on Pennsylvania Ave. 1889

This 1889 photo shows the home of Mrs. Clinton G. Bird at 677 Pennsylvania Ave. Marie Bird was the widow of Clinton G. Bird, a marble dealer with a business in New York for many years.

There were only a few examples of this double-L shaped Victorian style home in Elizabeth. The mansard roof, covered with slate shingles, provided a bonus third floor with extra rooms for a large family or live-in servants. Note the decorative brackets and elaborate trim under the eaves. The windows also had considerable ornamentation. There was a newly planted sapling tree at the curb.

The home was demolished by 1954 and replaced with a commercial building.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Clinton G. Bird (1833-1882), his wife Marie Tesse Loudon (1839-1916) and five children moved from New York to 677 Pennsylvania Ave. about 1879. Bird was partner with Robert G. Fisher in Fisher & Bird Steam Marble Co. on Houston Street in New York. Mrs. Bird and three single children were living in the Pennsylvania Avenue house as late as 1913. According to her death notice in the New York Times, Mrs. Bird died Feb. 25, 1916 at her residence at Bayswater, Far Rockaway, N.Y. Many members of the Bird family are buried at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



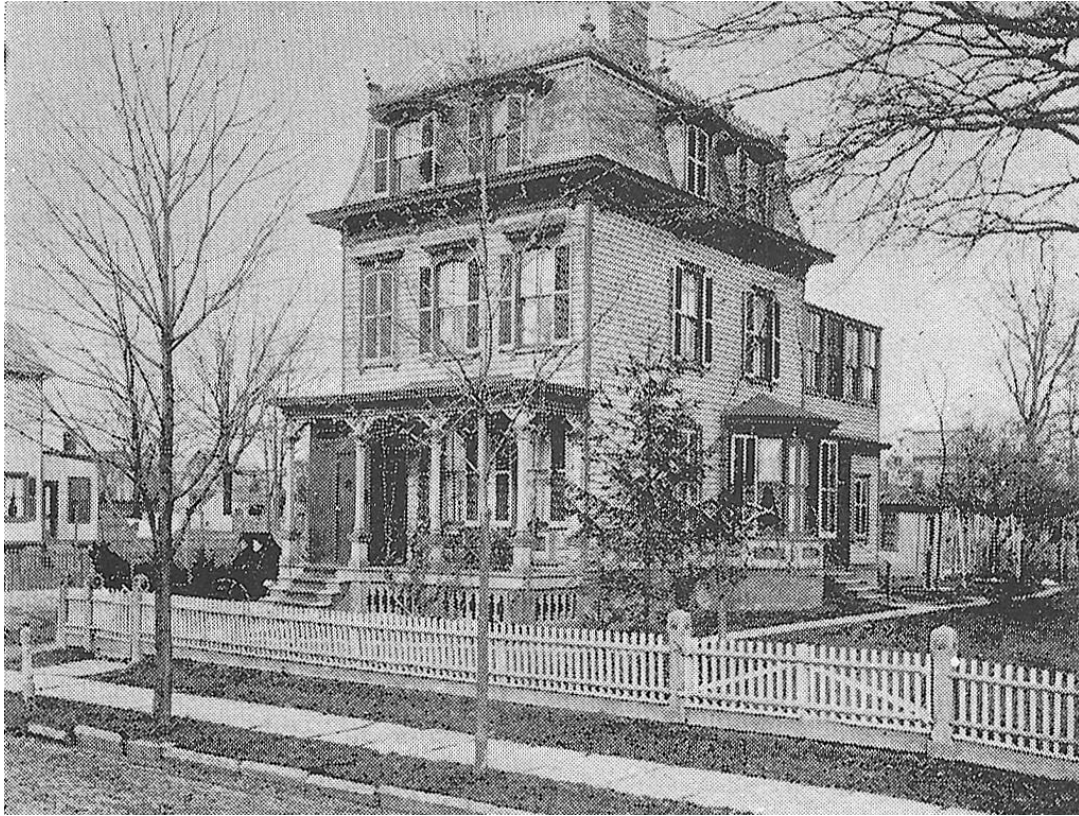
Dibble Home on Chestnut St.

The nicely coordinated colors, including matching roof shingles, painted foundation and lawn edging blocks, on this old Victorian home got my attention. It's located at 1165 Chestnut St. at Walnut St. The home represents one of the most popular architectural styles of the 19th century, the Second Empire. The mansard roof with dormers provided added living space for large families or live in servants. In 1919 George S. Miles, employed by Singer, was living here with his sons Thomas F., also employed by Singer, and Walter J., a clerk.

Many of the fine ornamental details have been removed over the years, like carved brackets under the eaves, window pediments and decorative porch pillars. The original shingles or clapboard has been replaced by dull looking vinyl siding, the ultimate affront to the original design. But at least the home survives today as a multi-unit apartment or rooming house.

Arnold Samuelsen said "William H. Dibble (1827-1895), a dentist with his office at 116 Broad St., lived at 1165 Chestnut St. in 1876, according to the city directory. His residence and office is listed at 78 W. Jersey St. in 1872. He was born in Connecticut and resided in Bordentown and Trenton before coming to Elizabeth for a few years. He returned to Trenton by 1878 where he formed the Dibble Manufacturing Co., which made dental instruments. He was issued a patent for a dental mallet in 1890. He later moved to Brooklyn where he committed suicide on Aug. 18, 1895 by shooting himself in the abdomen, according to the New York Times. He was described as a "wealthy retired dentist."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Ames Home on Walnut St. 1889

The home of Prof. Daniel T. Ames at 543 Walnut St. is shown in an 1889 photo. This style of Victorian architecture was popular in Elizabeth in the mid-late 19th century. Note the horse-drawn carriage on the left, with two people seated, perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Ames. Ames was an editor and publisher with an office in New York. He was a noted handwriting expert and author of the book *Ames on Forgery*. He published the *Penman's Art Journal*.

The home was razed some years ago and replaced with two modern homes.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Homes on Mary St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Mary St., off North Broad St., was lined with beautiful Victorian homes, some of which remain today. The home in the center, with brick arches supporting the porch, is no. 1169. It was built in 1902 and occupied in 1909 by John F. Rogge. In that year Rogge partnered with Nathan A. Apgar, his neighbor at 1171 Mary St. (green home on left), and Andrew M. Apgar to form the Apgar Plumbing and Heating Co. located at 258 Union St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Carr Mansion on Fairmount Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This 19th century Victorian home at 1213 Fairmount Ave. has sadly deteriorated over the years. The windowed mansard roof, ornate eaves, and tall narrow windows, with decorative arches over the upper windows, represent elements of Second Empire and Italianate architectural styles. The original clapboard or shingle siding has been replaced by faux brick siding.

This home was owned in the early 1900s by wealthy businessman Lovell H. Carr who was born in Ohio in 1865. The 1910 Census reports Carr living there with his wife Belle, 17 year old son Henry L. and a 19 year old servant, Helen Bell, from Virginia.

Carr was a member of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, the Building Trades Club of New York, and the Elizabeth Athletic Club. He was an executive of the Alpha Portland Cement Co., Ironton, Ohio, for 28 years. By 1921 he had moved to 35 Dewitt Road in the Westminster section of Elizabeth.

He was a descendant of James Lovell of Massachusetts, who served in the Continental Congress. Carr was a member of the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution for 43 years. He died in 1938.

The Carr mansion on Fairmount Avenue became a rundown boarding house, the fate of many of Elizabeth's once stately private residences. It was recently destroyed by a fire.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Home on Louisa St.

The best days of this 19th century Victorian home at 1143 Louisa St., near Jefferson Ave., are long gone. The mansard roof with arched dormer windows is characteristic of the Second Empire style that was popular in Elizabeth. This roof style provided a bonus third floor with rooms for large families, boarders or servants. James S. Heath, a boiler engineer and inventor, was living here according to the 1919 City Directory. Isaac W. Brook, an engineer, was a boarder. Another resident was William J. Brook, occupation unknown.

Today the home is a multi-family apartment. The decorative wood brackets at the roofline have been covered with vinyl and the front porch has been enclosed, with an additional room built on top of it. Needless to say, the aesthetics of the original home have been lost, making it a sad reminder of the city's once grand architecture.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Stein Home on Second St.

This elegant home at 151 Second St. at South Park St., opposite Jackson Park, was built in 1900. The turret and wraparound front porch are typical of Queen Anne style architecture. This is one of the few Victorian style homes in Elizabethport.

In 1919 Dr. Emil Stein, a surgeon, had his office and residence here. He was born in Austria in 1884, came to the U.S. and received his medical degree from New York University in 1906. He interned at Alexian Bros. Hospital. Dr. Stein moved to a new home/office at 607 Park Ave., at the corner of Elmora Ave., in the 1920s. The Second St. home is now used as the office of Brazinski Funeral Home located next door.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Edward Root Kellogg (1824-1883), a real estate agent, moved from Brooklyn in the late 1870's and lived in this house at 151 Second St. until his death. He was born in New York City, graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in civil engineering and later moved to Brooklyn where his father Edward Kellogg (1790-1858) had acquired large land holdings that were later passed to his only son Edward Root. The elder Edward Kellogg, born in Norwalk, Conn., was a brother of Elijah Kellogg (1784-1856), who came to Elizabeth about 1815 to establish a mercantile business. Elijah's family of 12 children had a major impact on the city."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Tenement Style Building on Second St.

This tenement style building on Second St. at Broadway dates to 1889 or earlier. High density, affordable housing was needed in Elizabethport for workers in nearby industries. Second St. also had stores, saloons and trolley service, making it a convenient place to live. The 1919 City directory included residents who worked as laborers, for the Pennsylvania Railroad, an ice dealer, and a clerk. The 125 year old building remains today in good condition and appears fully occupied.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



This 1912 postcard is a view looking southeast to St. Patrick's Church. The nice looking homes in the foreground, with porches and neat lawns, are on South Park St. near Third St. At least two of these old homes remain in today's view, although the front porches have been enclosed. On the right is one of the many new homes in the Port.

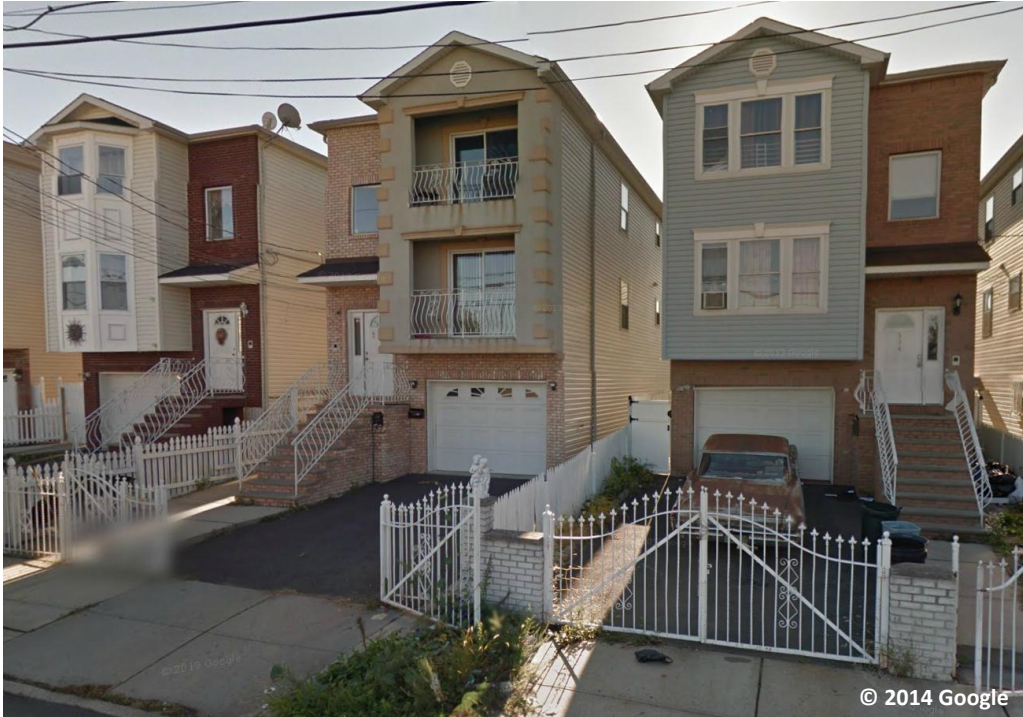
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Tenement Style Building on East Jersey St.

The top photo of 1889 shows one of the first tenement buildings in Elizabeth at 550-562 East Jersey St. near Sixth St. These were built as affordable housing for the workers at the booming industries of the Port. The small units rented for about \$6 a month, equivalent to \$150 today. The building survives today and looks fully rented.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



New Homes on Broadway

Elizabethport has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, with many new and remodeled homes. These homes were built on Broadway between Fifth St. and New Point Road. This was the location of the A. Lamy & Son Co. that made furnace grates in the 1920s.



New Homes on Port Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



RESIDENCE OF MR. ELI A. YOUNG, 316 FIRST AVENUE.



Young Home on First Ave.

The 1889 photo is of the Greek Revival style home at 316 First Ave. at the corner of Delaware St. This stately home was owned by Eli A. Young, a dock and bridge builder. After he died in 1894 the company he founded was reorganized as the New Jersey Dock and Bridge Building Company. The three saplings in front of the home in the 1889 photo are mature trees today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Gerke Home on First Ave.

This 1889 photo shows the home of Reinhard Gerke, located at 520 First Ave. at Spencer St. Gerke was secretary of the Union County Mutual Fire Insurance Co., incorporated in 1894. The architectural style is Greek Revival, a popular design in the 1830-1860 period. Typical elements of this style include a rectangular plan with a side wing, gabled roof, horizontal frieze board under the cornice, paneled windows sometimes topped with a decorative pediment, transom window over the front door, decorative pillars on the front porch, and clapboard siding usually painted white.

In 1919 John Kistner, a Singer employee, was living there. The three-story building next door housed an early A & P store.

The home remains today in good condition with some remodeling, including the enclosure of the front porch.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Moore Home on First Ave.

Another large home on First Ave. was at no. 300 at the corner of Erie St., across the street from the Mack Monument at Liberty Square. The Moore family lived there for many years. The 1910 Census listed Charles H. Moore, 50, wife Salma, 48, sons Frank, 23 and Charles, 8, daughters Florence, 21 and Salma, 16, and servant Laura Lawson, 23, from Norway.

Moore was a principal in the New Jersey Dock and Bridge Building Co. and served as a Union County Freeholder. The home survives today in fairly good condition.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Demolition of 640 Club on South St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The 640 Club on South St. was famous for steaks and prime rib. My grandparents Giovanni and Carmela Imbriaco came to the US around 1901 and rented an apartment on the second floor of the saloon that later became the 640 Club. My mother was born there in 1910. The 1919 City Directory lists William Thorwarth as the saloon owner at that time. The 640 Club was razed in April 2012.



Imbriaco Family Homes on South St. 2010 Photos by R.J. Baptista.

My grandfather John Imbriaco made his living as a landscaper for wealthy Elizabeth homeowners. He scraped enough money together to buy a 4-family home at 223 South St. shown on the left in this photo. This brick home was built in 1904. The very similar 4-family home next door at 219 South St. (right side of photo) was built in the 1880s. The original homes did not have bathrooms, which were added later as building extensions in the rear.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Each apartment had four rooms arranged "railroad" style—a kitchen in the rear, bedroom for children, parlor, and bedroom for parents in the front. The homes were heated with a coal furnace supplying steam to radiators.

As the family grew to include nine children, John bought a 14-room home at nearby 44 Reid St. in the 1920s. When the children married, many of them took apartments in the two South St. homes. By the mid-1950s, thirty-four Imbriaco descendants lived there. It was a wonderful life growing up in Peterstown, but over the next few years, most of us moved away to the suburbs.

I returned for a nostalgic visit to Elizabeth in 2010 after living in Texas for many years. The demographics have changed but Peterstown looked quite the same with landmarks like St. Anthony's, Spirito's restaurant and DiCosmo's lemon ice stand still there. I even bought a box of Italian cookies at Bella Palermo's. I stopped by our South St. homes to take photos and was saddened to see how worn out the homes looked.



Restored Building on Third Ave. at Christine St.

One of the best examples in Elizabeth of a restored early 1900s building is at 632-634 Third Ave. at Christine St. Even the ornamental medallions at the corner of the building have been preserved. The building was constructed in 1910 during the wave of Italian immigrants that populated Peterstown.

The 1919 City Directory lists two grocery stores here, run by Salvatore Miliziano and Araneri Coniglio. The tenants were Giuseppe Caglione, laborer; Luigi Campenella, laborer; James LaCorte, deputy sheriff; Salvatore F. LaCorte, lawyer; Calogero LaRocca, laborer; Vincenzo Marranga, laborer and Carmelo Zimpardi, laborer.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Restored Building on John St. at Fourth Ave.

This three-story brick building is another outstanding example of an early 1900s commercial building in Peterstown. Note the prominent Queen Anne style tower with ornamental medallions and topped with a conical roof. In 1919 this was the grocery store and saloon of Vincenzo DeMaio. All the residents of the second and third floor apartments were Italian.



Home and Apartment Building on Christine St.

The apartment building at 216 Christine St. was popular with Italian immigrants, as the 1919 City Directory reports the following 12 residents: Francesco Barliro, Paolo Curturizio, Giuseppe Di Bauro, Carmine DiFlorio, Nicola Festa, Domenico Guarino, Leonardo Latora, Antonio Lavano, Giro Mercaldi, Pasquale Merola, Vincenzo Mucelli and Vincenzo Talia. All these men worked as manual laborers.

Living in the home next door at 212 Christine St. in 1920 was Dr. Guido M. Guidi, wife Laura, daughter Fides, sons Odivillo, Amevige, stepdaughter Angeline Retunno and stepson Vincent Retunno.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



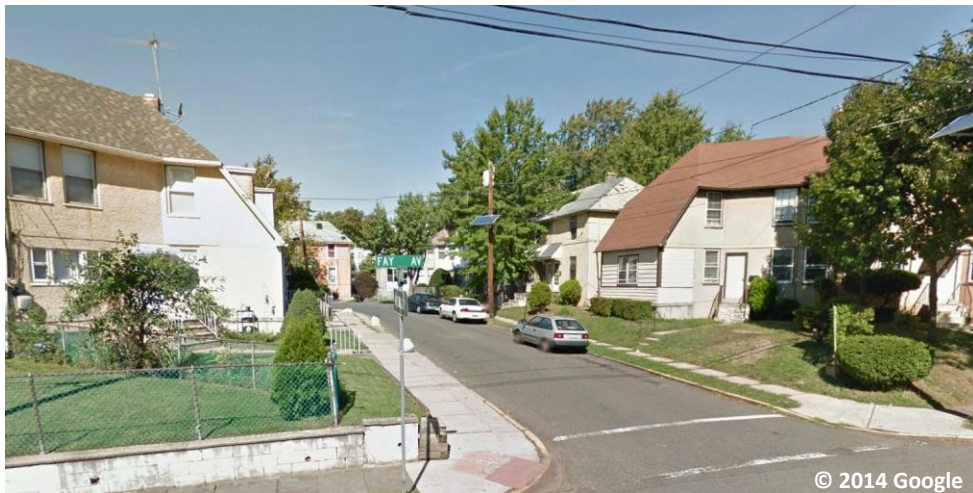
Building on Amity St. at Second Ave.

This three-story brick building, dating to 1907, is located at 38 Amity St. at Second Ave. In 1919 the grocery store of Nicholas Blumetti was located here. The arched entranceway was enclosed when the ground floor was converted to an apartment. The building is excellent condition. Even the original decorative brackets under the eaves have been preserved.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



ENTRANCE FROM FAY AVENUE, TO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT ELIZABETH, N. J.
Murphy & Dana, Architects.



Housing Development Fay Ave. and Kerlyn Court

The housing development on Fay Ave. and Kerlyn Court, off South Elmora Ave., was constructed in 1918 to provide homes for workers in the booming industries of Elizabeth. The architectural firm Murphy & Dana was engaged by developer Archibald H. Bull to create a rental housing plan with more aesthetics than the repetitive tenement and row housing popular at the time in New York and Philadelphia.

The parcel was only 2.2 acres, but the architects were able to plan an attractive garden village for 54 families housed in units of two, four and five families. The units have three, four or five rooms, each room with two windows, one to two baths, and closets. The kitchen stoves were a combination coal and gas type, fitted with a hot water boiler. The larger units had cellars with furnaces supplying forced air heating. The smallest units had only the kitchen stove for heat. Rents ranged from \$16 to \$26 per month. A small grocery store was located in the unit on the corner of South Elmora and Fay Avenues.

The development was located only a half-mile from the Standard Aircraft factory which employed thousands of workers back then. The housing development remains today in fairly good condition and looks fully occupied.

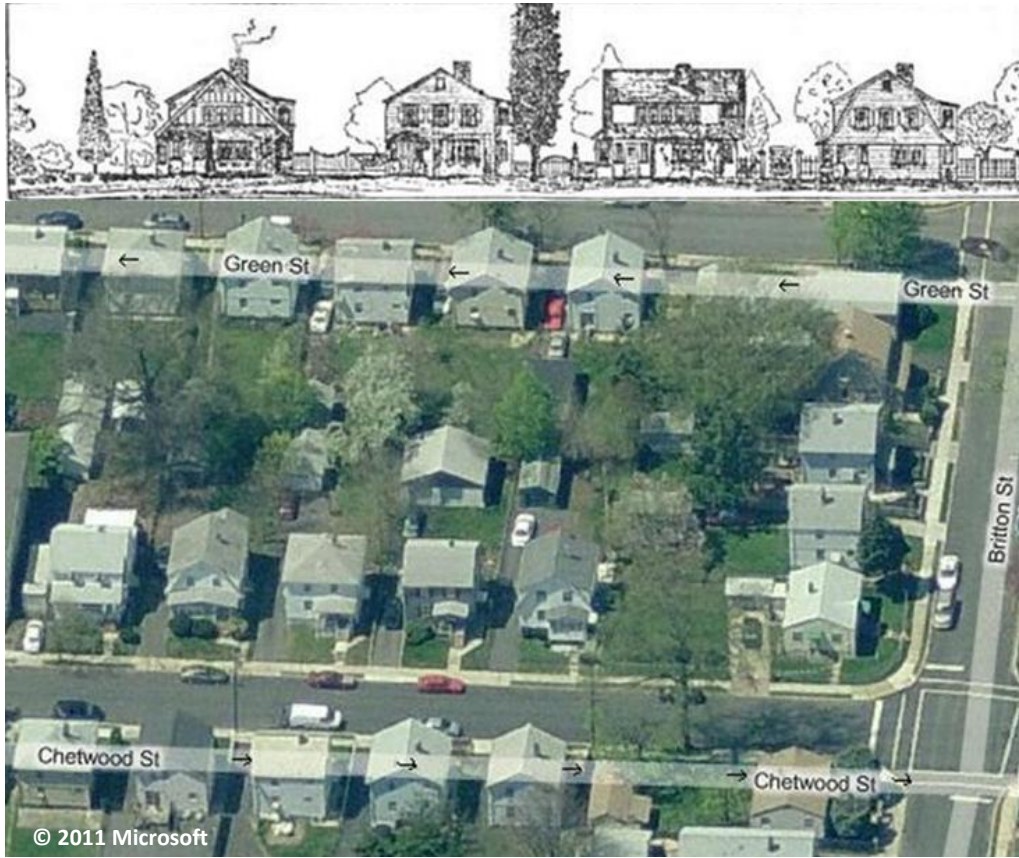
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Mravlag Manor in Bayway 1940 (Library of Congress) and Today

Mravlag Manor in Bayway was the first of Elizabeth's housing projects, built in 1939. Renters paid \$22.50 a month for five rooms-three bedrooms, kitchen, living room and bath. Children had a playground to keep them off the street. Mravlag Manor still stands today but Pioneer Homes and Migliore Manor were demolished some years ago to make way for new individual housing units.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Standard Oil Housing Development

Linden and Elizabeth faced a housing crisis after World War I when new chemical plants and oil refineries needed thousands of workers to fill jobs. The Grasselli Chemical Co., later known as the General Aniline & Film Corp., built homes for their workers in the Tremley section of Linden, which survive today. By 1919 Standard Oil employed 4,500 and announced plans for the construction of 300 homes for workers on a 50 acre tract in Elizabeth, just east of the refinery. The tract was bounded by Bayway Ave., South Broad St., Summer St. and the Elizabeth River. A community center and a park along the river were planned. Each two-story home had six rooms and a bath and was on a 50 by 100 foot lot. The homes cost about \$3,000, equivalent to \$37,000 today. Employees had to put 10 percent down and could pay the balance in monthly payments over ten years. Many of the employees were Polish.

Four of the various styles are shown in the top image. In a row of twelve homes, no two would be alike. Exterior finishes included stucco, clapboard siding and shingles. The roofs were slate, composition or shingles. Exterior trim and porches were varied to help differentiate the homes further. In order to speed construction, all lumber was cut into 12 foot lengths and doors and windows had standard sizes. The first 40 homes were built in just 40 working days.

But Standard Oil faced litigation from the Bayway Company, a private developer, and only 50 homes were built, south of Britton St. In 1929 the Bayway Company took possession of the remaining lots. The onset of the Depression halted home construction. The blocks south of Summer St. were not developed until the boom years after World War II. Some of the original homes built by Standard Oil are shown in the current aerial view.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Irwin Double Houses in Bayway

The Irwin Double Houses are a group of 44 duplexes built 1947-1950 in a three block area of Bayway. Standard Oil planned to build 300 single-family houses in Bayway beginning in 1920, but only 50 were constructed. Some of the remaining lots were eventually acquired by the Irwin Holding Corporation after WW II. Workers wanted affordable housing that was a step above tenements. The two-story colonial style brick homes were virtually identical, giving the neighborhood the dull "cookie cutter" look associated with post World War II housing developments such as Levittown, New York.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Row Homes for Veterans on Clarkson Ave. ca. 1946

This aerial view of Elizabeth, looking north along the Elizabeth River, dates to about 1946. Note the Thomas A. Edison High School, built in 1935 on Summer St., at the lower left. Nearby on Clarkson Ave. are the new homes for returning veterans of World War II. A total of 164 units were built in the city using funds from both the city and federal government. They were referred to as "The Barracks." The Clarkson Ave. homes were demolished around 1966 and replaced with single family homes.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Homes for Veterans on Neck Lane.

The row homes on Neck Lane and nearby Coakley Circle were among those built after WW II for returning veterans. Coakley Circle was named after Elizabeth serviceman Lt. Francis X. Coakley, who was killed when his troop transport ship was sunk by a German submarine in the English Channel on Dec. 24, 1944.



Orphanage on Murray St. 1905

The Elizabeth Orphan Asylum Association was formed in 1858 and bought a house on Broad St. to shelter eleven children. A larger building was later constructed at the corner of Murray and Cherry Streets in the ornate Second Empire architectural style. Note the windowed mansard roof and tall, narrow windows typical of this style. In 1911 a new orphanage was built on Salem Ave. and named the Janet Memorial Home. The old orphanage closed and the property was sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad. The site is now occupied by the J. William Farley Towers, a nine-story apartment building erected in 1963. It was named after J. William Farley, Sr., a member of the Housing Authority and initiator of the plan to build public housing for senior citizens.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



J. William Farley Towers at Murray and Chestnut Streets. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

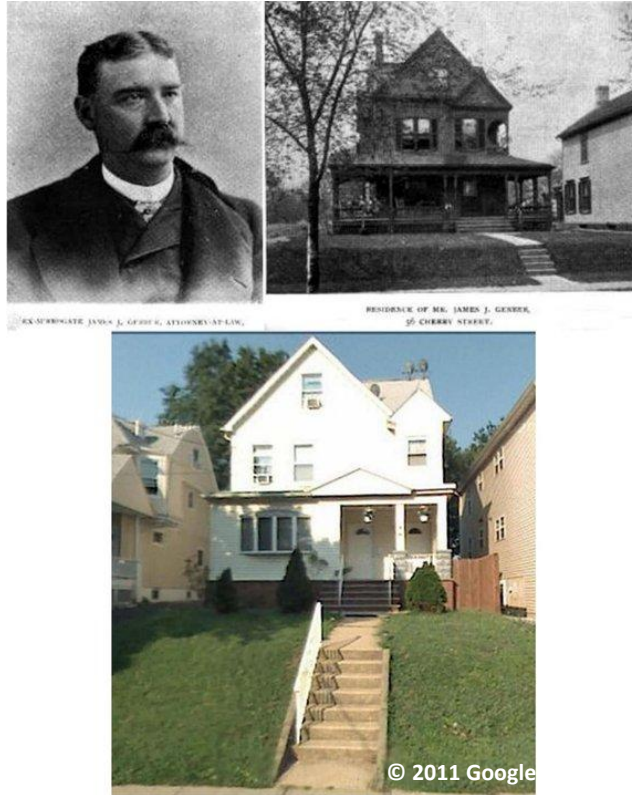


Former Smith Funeral Home on Cherry St. Now a Vacant Lot.

The Smith Funeral Home sign and foundation are all that remain of one of the oldest African-American owned businesses in the city, which was established by Frances C. Smith and her husband. I remember walking by the Victorian style home, painted green and looking similar to the adjacent home pictured, when I lived on Westfield Ave. in the late 1950s. The Smith family lived on the second floor. A fire in 2005 destroyed the home which was then demolished. The business relocated to 455 North Broad St.

Frances C. Smith was very active in civic affairs and served on the Board of Education for 16 years. She was the first African-American woman to be named president of the Board. A school is named in her honor-the Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education on South Elmora Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Gerber Home on Cherry St.

James J. Gerber, attorney and former surrogate judge, owned this fine home at 56 Cherry St. in 1889. The home survives to this day, although remodeled and converted into a two-family.



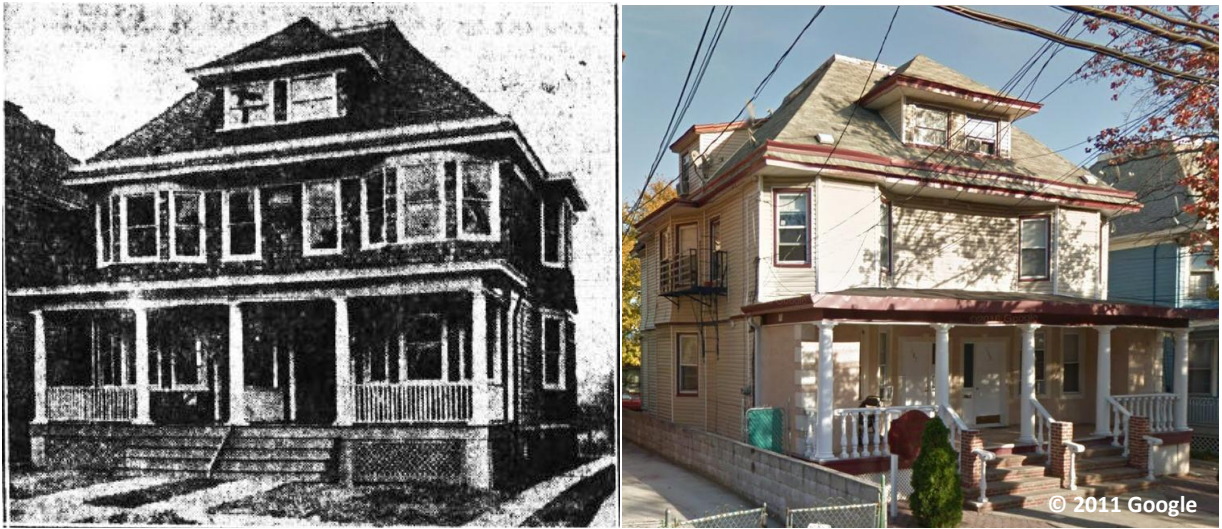
Jones Home at 59 Cherry St.

This home dates to the 1880s. The design looks like a mix of Victorian and Colonial Revival-there is less ornamentation and cleaner lines than older designs. The home has since been replaced by a modern home.

Arnold Samuelsen: "William Trubshaw Jones (1844-1897), a grocer at 114 Broad St., lived at this house at 59 Cherry St. from at least 1886 until his death. His widow Harriet Rollo Sayre Jones (1851-1930) continued to live

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

here until about 1915 when she moved to 35 Stiles St. with her daughter Harriet Elizabeth Jones (1885-1971) and her husband Kenneth Eagles Beam (1883-1961). Kenneth Beam was secretary of the Elizabeth YMCA."



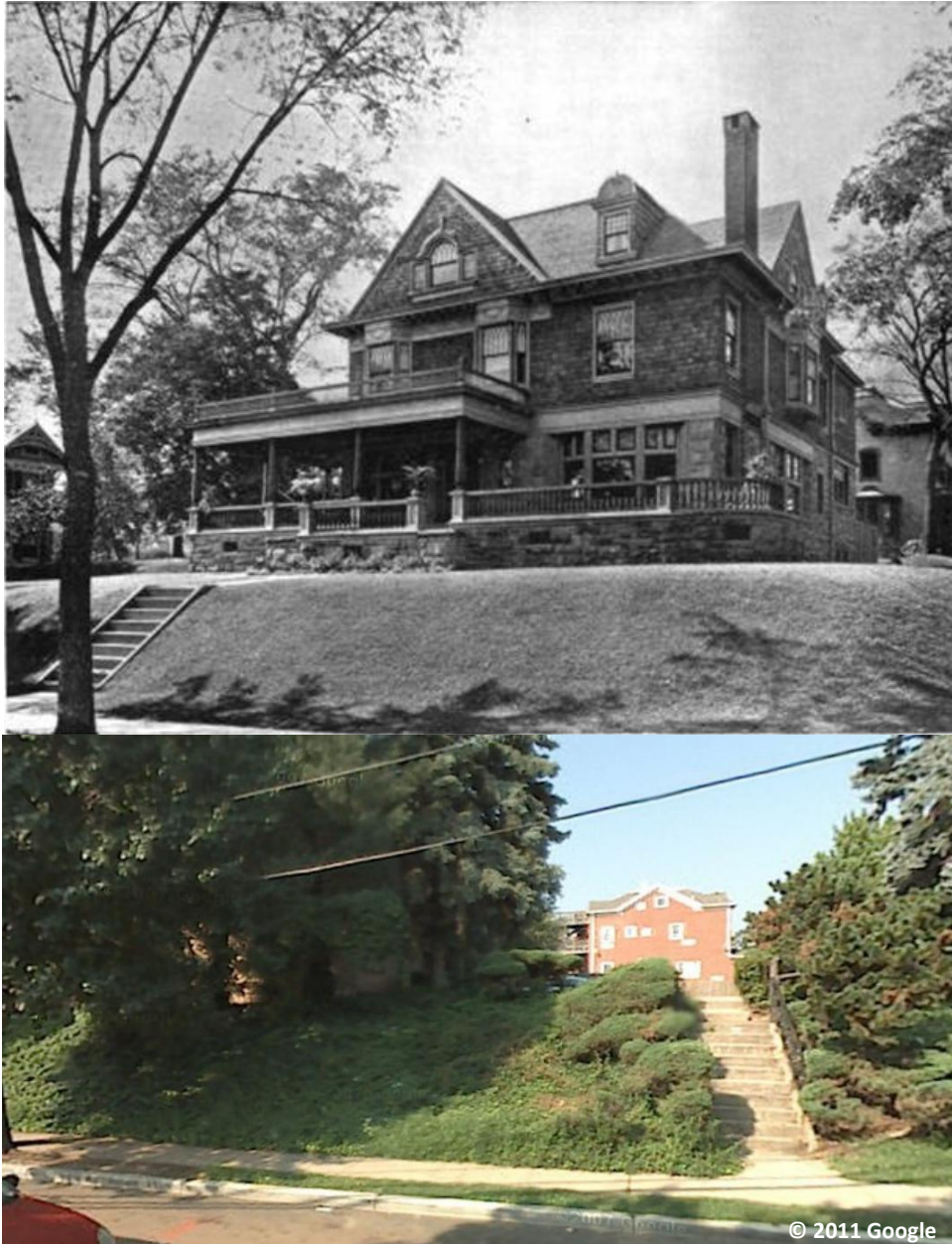
New "Double House" on Cherry St.

The 1914 photo above shows the "double house", now called a two-family or duplex, built at 121-123 Cherry St. between West Grand and West Jersey Streets. The architect was Louis Quien, Jr. who incorporated the design ideas of owner George Froggott, a grocer. Each dwelling had seven rooms and bath. The trim on the first floor was chestnut in a natural stain. Cypress trim and birch doors were used on the second floor. All the floors were hardwood. The house was heated with steam and lighted with electricity.

The 1919 City Directory listed the residents as Robert Palm, a mechanical engineer, and Joseph B. Williams, a cashier.

The house remains in good condition today with the original front porch still open and new brick entrance steps.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Johnny Murphy's Brass Horn Restaurant on Cherry St.

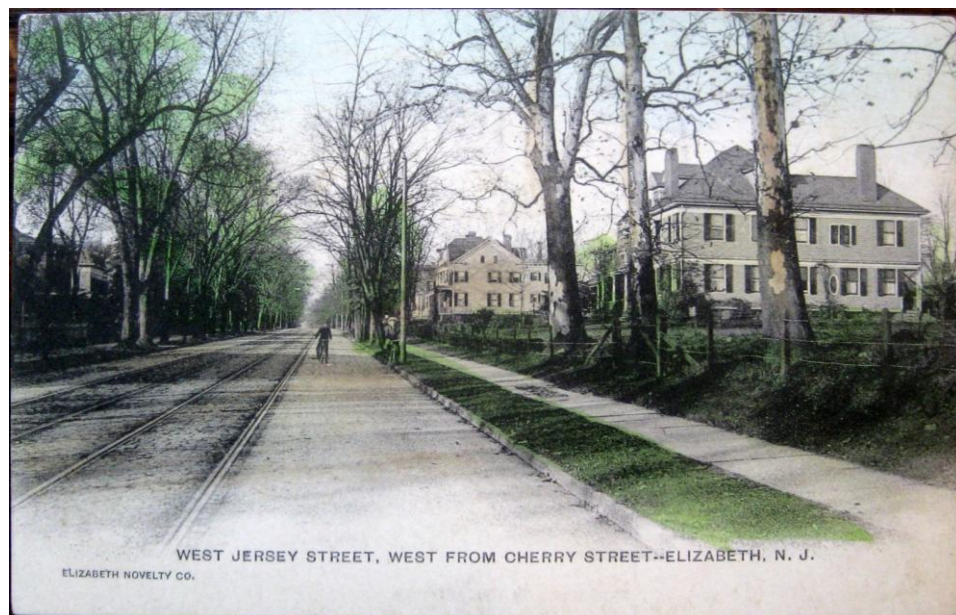
You may recognize the elegant home in the top photo of 1894 as the future Johnny Murphy's Brass Horn restaurant. It was one of the finer restaurants in Elizabeth, located at 144 Cherry St. at West Grand St. Established in 1954, the restaurant had a cocktail lounge and banquet rooms for parties and weddings. There was even an outdoor terrace for dining "al fresco". The Brass Horn remained open until the early 1980s. Another restaurant with new owners took over but was unsuccessful. The restaurant was demolished around 1987 to make way for a condominium.

The construction of this fine home was featured in an 1894 architectural publication which reads "This house is built upon a stone basement, the stonework being carried to the level of the second floor. Above the stone, framework is used, covered with shingles. The roof, also covered with shingles, presents a gable to the front and one to the side. A terrace, approached by a double flight of steps, runs across the front, and has a semicircular end, being also partly roofed, as shown. The second story has two oriel windows underneath the gable, in front, and

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

one under the side gable, and a dormer, with a circular head, completes the exterior. The plan shows a central entrance hall, with main staircase at end of same. A parlor, library, sitting-room, and dining-room are provided, all communicating by sliding doors. A butler's pantry and storage rooms are provided in convenient situations, and communication between kitchen and dining-room is arranged through a separate passage. On the second floor five bedrooms are provided, each with closet, also a dressing-room, bathroom, and water-closet. The main staircase provides access to third story, on which are placed bedrooms and store closets. The architect is J. E. Baker, Newark."

James T. Whittlesey, Superintendent of the Stephenson Car (trolley) Co. in Bayway, was living there in 1898. He and his wife Elsie had two daughters, Frances and Pauline. The 1919 City Directory listed Arthur V. Dimock living there. He was a stockbroker and the younger brother of Wall St. magnate Anthony W. Dimock, whose mansion on South Broad St. became the first Battin High School in 1889.



West Jersey St. View West from Cherry St.

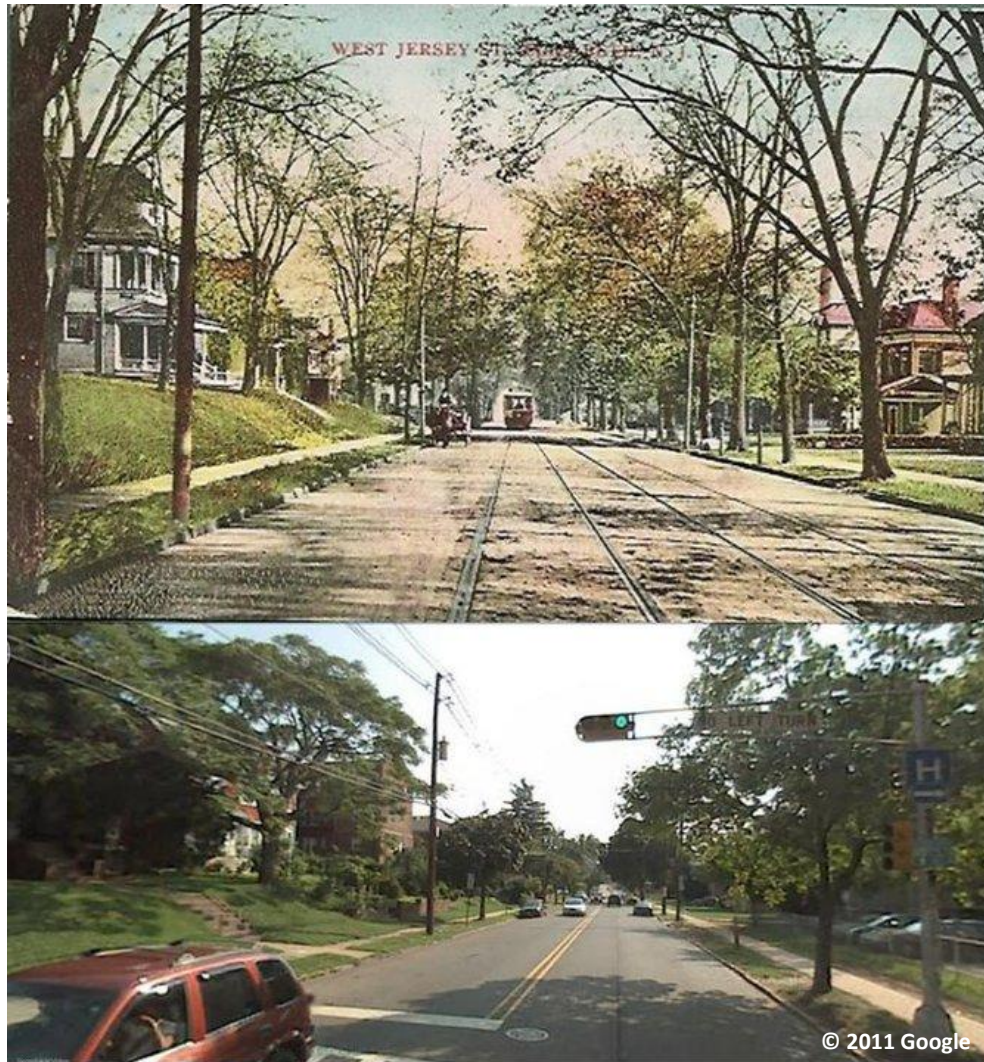
This 1906 postcard is a westward looking view of West Jersey St. from Cherry St. The trolley tracks were built in the early 1900s and connected Broad St. with Roselle, Cranford, Westfield and Plainfield. The large home on the right was at 117 West Jersey St. Living there in 1919 was Louis F. Hersh, born in 1857 in Austria. Hersh was vice president of the Union County Trust Co. and also had a wholesale grocery business and an automobile dealership.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Hersh built the Art Deco inspired Hersh Tower on Broad St. in 1931. The home was later owned by Charles H. Aldrich, a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1901. He was manager of the United States Metals Co. in Carteret and the Ontario Refining Co., Copper Cliff, Ontario.

The second house from the right, mostly obscured by no. 117, was at 125 West Jersey St. and built of stone. The 1900 Census lists the owner as Edward C. Woodruff, president of the Union County Savings Bank, who lived there with wife Henriette, sons George and John, Rose Sillick, 22, a maid from Ireland, Lizzie Mitchell, 21, a maid and Ellen Coughlin, 45, a servant.

The yellow home further down the street was at 133 West Jersey St. The original owners are unknown. This upscale section of West Jersey St. was razed in the 1960s only to be replaced by drab apartment buildings.



West Jersey St. View East from Chilton St.

This 1910 postcard is a view of West Jersey St. looking east from Chilton St. The scene today shows most of the elegant homes have been replaced by apartment buildings.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Admiral William F. Halsey and Home on West Jersey St. Right Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

William F. "Bull Halsey" was born October 30, 1882, the son of Navy Captain William F. Halsey Sr. His boyhood home was at 134 West Jersey St., built in 1864 by James D. Brewster, Halsey's grandfather. He went to Pingry School, then located on Westminster Ave., and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1904.

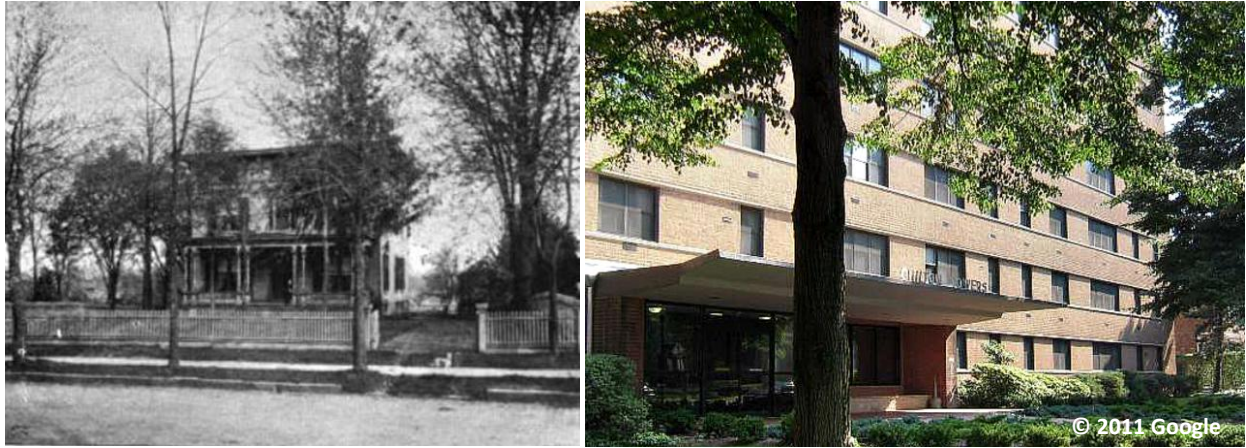
Halsey served on escort vessels during WW I and later earned his Naval Aviator's Wings at 52, the oldest person to do so in the history of the Navy. He commanded the South Pacific Area in 1942 and was promoted to Commander-in-Chief of the Third Fleet in 1944. He provided support for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's invasion of the Philippines in 1944.

The Japanese surrender in World War II took place on his flagship, the battleship USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay. Halsey was promoted to Five-Star Fleet Admiral, one of only five men to have held that rank, in 1945. He was honored at a homecoming parade in Elizabeth on November 7, 1945. The procession stopped at Pingry, where he gave a speech, Scott Park, the site of a formal ceremony, and then at his family home where a reception was held.

Halsey died August 16, 1959 and was buried in Arlington Cemetery next to his father. His wife, Frances Grandy Halsey (1887-1968), is buried with him.

The Halsey home was converted to a restaurant, Polly's Elizabeth Inn, which was destroyed by a fire in 1988. An apartment building is at the site today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Chilton Hall Classical School on West Jersey St.

John Young established a private school for boys on Williamson St. in 1854. In 1860 he erected the Chilton Hill Classical School at 202 West Jersey St., near Chilton St., shown in this 1889 photo. The school was also his residence. Young died in 1906.

Nearby at 212 West Jersey St. was the birthplace of Nicholas Murray Butler (1862-1947). Butler was president of Columbia University for 43 years and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. A huge boulder holding a plaque was dedicated in front of the Butler home in 1939 to recognize his 75th birthday. The sponsor was the Columbia Alumni Club of Union County. School No. 23, built in 1958 on the original Pingry School site on Union Ave., was named after Nicholas Murray Butler.

In 1960 these two homes were among a row of six along West Jersey St. that were demolished to make way for the 14-story Chilton Towers apartment building. These homes were regarded as showplaces of the mid-Victorian era. The plaque noting the birthplace of Nicholas Murray Butler was rededicated at the apartment building in 1962.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Cissel Home on West Jersey St.

This 19th century 3-story brick home, at 153 West Jersey St. at Chilton St., has been converted into a 14 unit rooming house. But many of the fine architectural details have survived, including the ornate roof line trim, decorative support brackets under the eaves, and window trim. The extension in the rear may be original because of the matching brick, windows and roof line decoration. It is one of the few 3-story brick homes that were built in the city.

The original owner in 1876 was furnace merchant Richard Samuel Thomas Cissel, who was born in Maryland in 1824. He had a son Barnard born in 1858 from his first marriage which ended in divorce. He married Clementina Crawford Rittenhouse in 1868 in Elizabeth. They had seven children during 1869-1882: daughters Ettie (Henrietta), Katherine, Mary, Clementine, Helen and Margaret, and a son John. Cissel was an inventor, with a 1883 patent on an ice velocipede for cycling on frozen lakes, and an 1884 patent on a furnace grate. The family belonged to the Elizabeth Town and Country Club. He died in 1905; his wife continued to live in the house with unmarried children and various boarders and servants. She died in 1934.

Ettie Cissel married James Crane Kellogg Jr. Their son James Clark Kellogg III (1915-1980) was president of the New York Stock Exchange and chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. A grandson Peter Kellogg of Short Hills is No. 117 on Forbes Magazine's 2011 list of richest Americans with a net worth of \$2.3 billion.

I thank Arnold Samuelsen and Madeline Mason Van Orden for contributing to this history.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Creevey Home on West Jersey St. 2010 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

One of the finest examples of Victorian architecture remaining in Elizabeth is this home at 215 West Jersey St. near Chilton St. The prominent towers and turret, along with rounded wraparound front porch and dramatic roof lines, are typical elements of the Queen Anne architectural style. It may have been designed by Elizabeth architect David Provoost, who designed a similar looking mansion on the corner of West Grand and Cherry Streets in 1889. Today the home survives as a rooming house.

Arnold Samuelsen: "From about 1909 to 1918 this house at 215 West Jersey St. was the home of John K. Creevey (1841-1921), a New York lawyer, his wife Caroline A. Stickney (1843-1920), son William S. Creevey (1880-1933), also a lawyer in New York, and daughter Elizabeth H. Creevey (1885-1958), an artist who was known by her married name of Beth Hamm. She married Army Capt. Arthur Ellis Hamm in 1917; a year later he was killed in France during World War I. The elder Creevey was born in Northern Ireland, the son of an Methodist Episcopal minister, and lived in Brooklyn where he was on the Board of Education before moving to Elizabeth about 1909. From Elizabeth, the family, except for Beth, moved to Fort Myers, Fla., where the parents died. William Creevey (Yale '02, Columbia Law '05), while in Elizabeth sang in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church and once or twice a week played whist at the Elizabeth Chess and Whist Club, according to his biography in a Yale alumni book in 1912."

The 1919 City Directory listed James C. Kellogg, Jr. living here. The Kelloggs, a prominent family in the city for many years, lived across the street at 236 West Jersey St.

Arnold Samuelsen: "James Crane Kellogg 1st (1837-1934) of 236 West Jersey St. manufactured laundry bluing at three locations in Manhattan from 1867 to 1920, according to New York City directories. His son James Crane Kellogg 2nd (1872-1933), who also worked in the business, moved across the street to 215 West Jersey St. about 1919 with his wife Henrietta Davidson Cissel, who grew up at 153 West Jersey St., and their son James Crane Kellogg 3rd and daughter Nancy Kellogg."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bull Home on West Jersey St.

Some of Elizabeth's wealthiest residents lived on West Jersey St. between Cherry St. and Dehart Place. Archibald H. Bull built a 3-story, 14 room mansion on a 1.5 acre site at 225 West Jersey St. in 1919 at a cost of \$140,000, equivalent to \$1.5 million today. Bull was chairman of the A.H. Bull Steamship Co. He was a pioneer in the West Indies trade, first running sailing vessels to Puerto Rico and later establishing a steamship line that became the New York and Porto Rico Steamship Co. The Bull Steamship Co. was an agent or operator of the ships of several companies. In his later years he was active in real estate and built the 54 unit development on Fay Ave. and South Elmora Ave. in 1918.

The home, shown in this 1929 photo, was one of the most unique in Elizabeth. The fieldstone construction gave it a countryside look. The design might have been from Murphy & Dana, the architectural firm that planned the Fay Ave. development.

Bull died in 1920, shortly after his home on West Jersey St. was built. His widow Evelyn later sold the home to

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Judge Clark McKinley Whittemore. The home was sold again in 1945 and demolished in 1954 for the construction of the Workmen's Circle Home for the Aged and Infirm. The nursing home is now called Elmora Hills.



Former Leonard Home for Funerals on West Jersey St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Daniel J. Leonard began his undertaking business in 1904 in a storefront at 1143 Elizabeth Ave. In 1926 the business was located at 47 Broad St. next door to the People's Bakery. By 1938 Leonard had relocated to a much larger colonial style home at 242 West Jersey St. shown in this photo. Leonard died in 1958. The business was continued by his sons Daniel J. Leonard Jr. and Richard J. Leonard. The funeral home closed a few years ago and was remodeled to house the Union County Advocacy Center.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

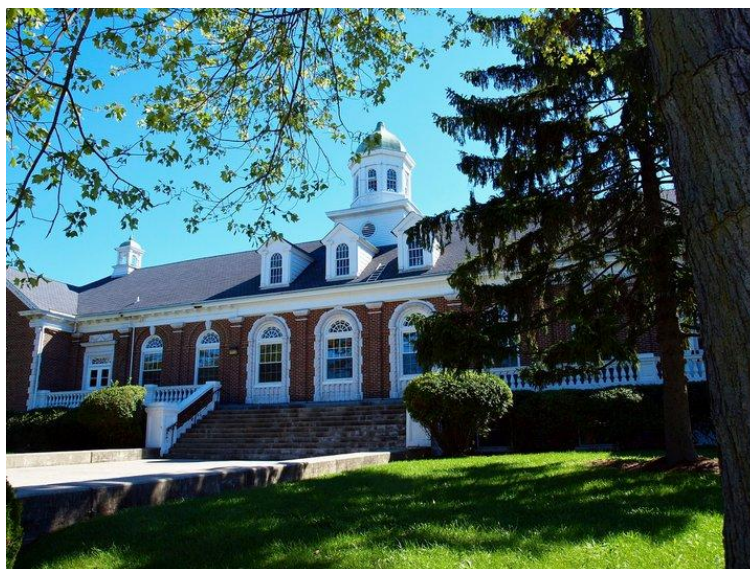


Victorian Home on West Jersey St. 1902

This 1902 photo is of a home offered for sale by the Security Land and Improvement Co. The ad was placed in the New York Daily Tribune to promote Elizabeth as an attractive suburb for people who worked in New York. The property was described as a large plot 200 ft. wide by 500 ft. deep, shaded by oak and maple trees. The ad said "modern improvements" were made, so presumably the home had indoor plumbing, electricity and telephone service. Trolley service was available for transportation to the downtown railroad stations and business district, making the location appealing to a wealthy professional person or merchant.

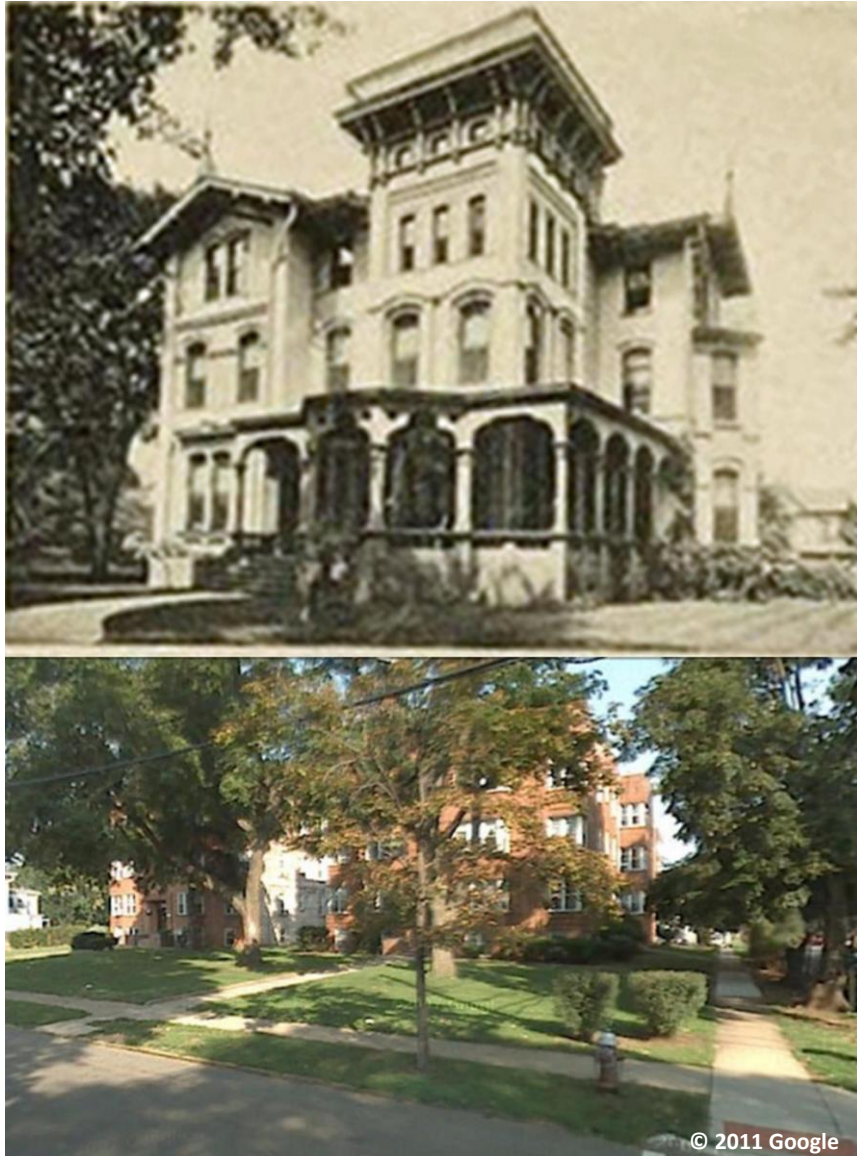
The home, located at 416 Linden Ave., was one of the finest examples in the city of the Victorian gingerbread design, loaded with ornamentation on the roof lines, windows and porches. The wood trim on these homes was often brightly painted in different colors, giving a truly stunning appearance.

In 1918, lawyer Albert F. Bender established the Bender Memorial Academy, a private school for boys and girls, in this home. A modern school building was erected later and is now used by a church.



Former Bender Memorial Academy. 2010 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Carlton Mansion on West Jersey St. 1903 and Today

This ornate three-story Victorian mansion at 301 West Jersey St., corner of Dehart Place, was the early 1900s residence of Albert B. Carlton, comptroller of the City of Elizabeth. He was also president of the United Electric Co. of New Jersey, which later became part of Public Service. The socially prominent Carlton was a member of the Town and Country Club on North Broad St. and owned one of the first automobiles in the city in 1903.

The prominent rectangular tower and tall narrow windows reflect the Italianate architectural style. Note the wraparound front porch with ornate arched pillars.

George Seeber, the president of the Rising Sun Brewery, is listed as the owner in the 1921 City Directory. Also living there was his daughter Margaret and sons George Jr. and Herbert. Another son, Charles G. Seeber, was killed in action in World War I in 1918.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Kiggins Home on West Jersey St. 1889

The block of West Jersey St. from Chilton St. to De Hart Place was lined with elegant Victorian homes in the 19th century. This 1889 photo shows the home and large property at 260 West Jersey St. at the corner of De Hart Place. The owner was Henry Kiggins (1815-1905), founder of Kiggins, Tooker & Co., a publisher of school books in New York since 1840.

The 1900 census lists the residents as Henry Kiggins, 85 and a widower (his late wife's name was Eliza); daughters Fannie, 47; Eliza, 45; Elizabeth, 35; sons Edward, 38; William, 28. The children living at home were all unmarried. Children living elsewhere were Henry G., 50; Charles, 48; and Lillie, 44. The Kiggins family had two live in servants: Mary Harkins, 48, cook and Madora Jordan, 21, chambermaid.

As wealthy residents and their grown children moved from Elizabeth to the suburbs, their large properties became available for development. Starting in the 1950s, all the mansions on this block were eventually razed and replaced with apartment or office buildings.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

LOTS

OF VARIOUS SIZES

FOR SALE

ON


West Jersey and Chilton Sts.,

In neighborhood of the houses shown on
page 67.



INQUIRE OF

CHARLES H. EDGAR,

5 Beekman Street, New York City.



C. H. EDGAR,
Prominent Lawyer, New York.



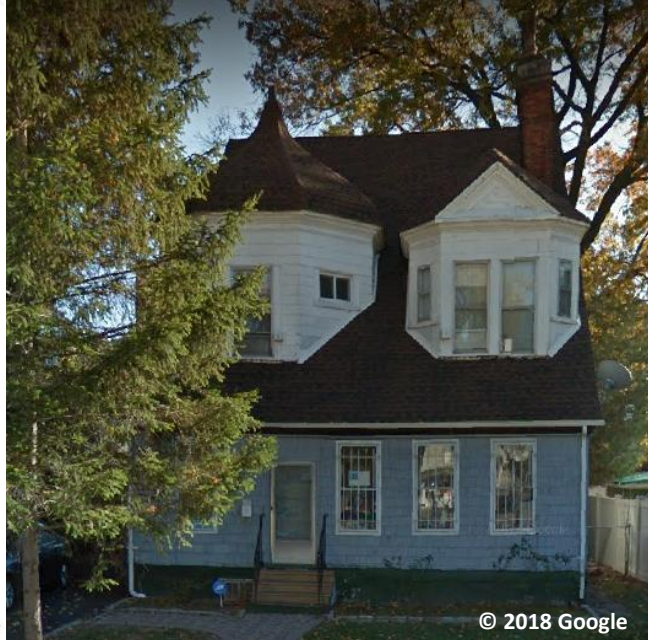
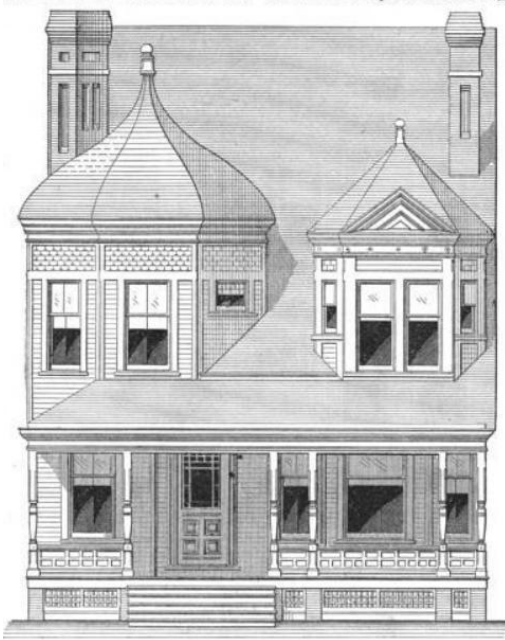
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Chilton St. Homes 1889 and Today

One of the land developers of Elmora in the late 19th century was Charles H. Edgar, a New York lawyer. In 1889 he advertised lots for sale in the vicinity of Chilton and West Jersey streets, with the photo showing the "cottages" already built on Chilton St. The architect was David B. Provoost of Elizabeth. These designs had a tower or turret as an architectural flourish, but overall had simpler lines than the earlier Victorian homes of the city.

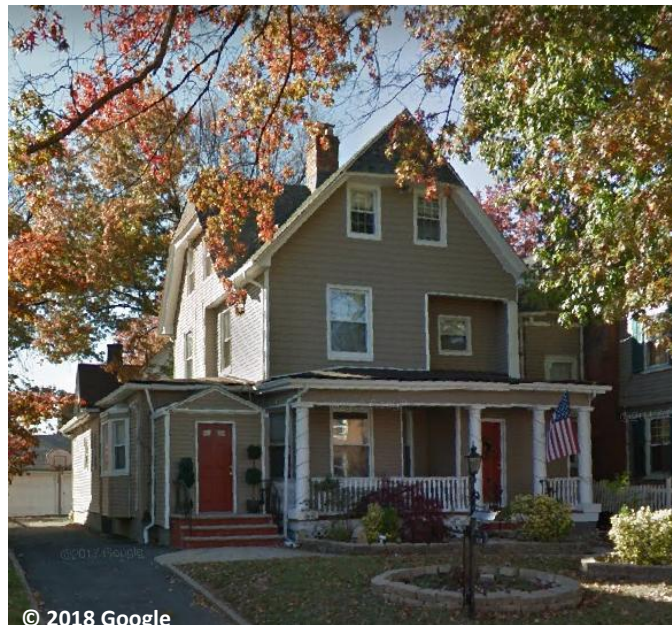
The two homes on the right of the 1889 photo remain today. Although the home on the left has been replaced, a similar home remains on nearby Edgar Place.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Home on Edgar Place

This home at 214 Edgar Place was designed by architect David B. Provoost. He published the drawing on the left in an architectural journal in 1890. Provoost liked Queen Anne designs, reflected in the two towers topped with conical roofs. The modestly priced home had on the first floor a parlor, dining room and kitchen. There were four bedrooms on the second floor and a bathroom. James N. Brewster was living there in 1919. The front porch was originally open but has now been enclosed.



Cissel Home on Chilton St.

This well maintained home is at 124 Chilton St. Arnold Samuelsen: "The home at 124 Chilton St. dates to 1899 as the residence of Robert Barnard Cissel (1857-1926) and his wife Clara Kirkpatrick Cissel (1861-1930). He received several patents for rotary fan shafts when working for Backus Water Motor Co. in Newark. Late in life he was

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

president of the Elizabeth Board of Public Works. He was born in Washington, D.C., the son of Richard S. T. Cissel and Mary Corsbie Barnard, who died in 1861. Robert Cissel came to Elizabeth in 1868 after his father married Clementine Crawford Rittenhouse in Washington. The family lived at 153 West Jersey St. The 124 Chilton St. house later was the home and office of Drs. Walter F. Phelan, from 1928 until his death Dec. 24, 1954, and Herbert E. Poch (1927-2014), from about 1959."



Victorian Home on Grove St.

This large Victorian home at 815 Grove St. was the home of the Calhoun family according to the 1900 Census. William M. Calhoun, 57, was head of the family and a firearms merchant. Also living there were his wife Carrie F. Calhoun, 54; daughter Annie L Calhoun, 34; son William A. Calhoun, 25, a lawyer; daughter Florence D. Calhoun, 19; sister Lizzie M. Calhoun, 47; and servant Katherine Collins, 20, from Ireland. The Calhouns lived there until 1919 or later. The mansard roof with dormer windows provided a bonus third floor with additional rooms for a large family or live in servants.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



19th Century Home on Grove St.

This Second Empire style home at 820 Grove St. was popular in 19th century Elizabeth. The mansard roof with dormers converted normal attic space into usable rooms, important for large families or live in servants. In 1919, Conrad C. Reetz was living here. In 1920 he partnered with George R. Dougherty of New York to form the American Auto Body Manufacturing Co. of Newark. Although the home had been vinyl sided, the decorative brackets under the eaves, window trim, and front porch pillars were original. The home was razed in 2015.

Arnold Samuelsen uncovered some interesting early history: "The house at 820 Grove St. dates to at least 1879 when it was the home of New York manufacturer and later Elizabeth City Treasurer James Morrison, who later lived at 254 Williamson St., 656 Pearl St. and 62 De Hart Place. He was the father of Noah Morrison, a dealer in rare books in Elizabeth.

Herman F. Reetz, owner of the Elizabeth Cornice Works at 317 W. Grand St. and later 27 S. Union St., lived here starting about 1900 with sons Conrad C. and Henry C. The latter was a 21-year-old artist when he died in 1910 after eating a raw quince that had grown in the back yard. The New York Times reported on the tragedy on Oct.22, 1910:

Killed by Eating Quince and Milk.

ELIZABETH, N.J., Oct. 21 -- Eating a raw quince which he had put into a bowl of milk caused the death of Henry Reetz, a young artist, early this morning at his home, 820 Grove Street. He had been ill only two days. He plucked the fruit from a tree in his garden, and, cutting the quince, soaked it in the milk. He was attacked with violent pains in the stomach four hours after he had partaken of the dish, and suffered intense agony. He had been married only four months."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



RESIDENCE OF EX-COUNCILMAN ABRAM B. KNAPP, DEHART PLACE.



Victorian Home on Dehart Place 1889 and Today. Right Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

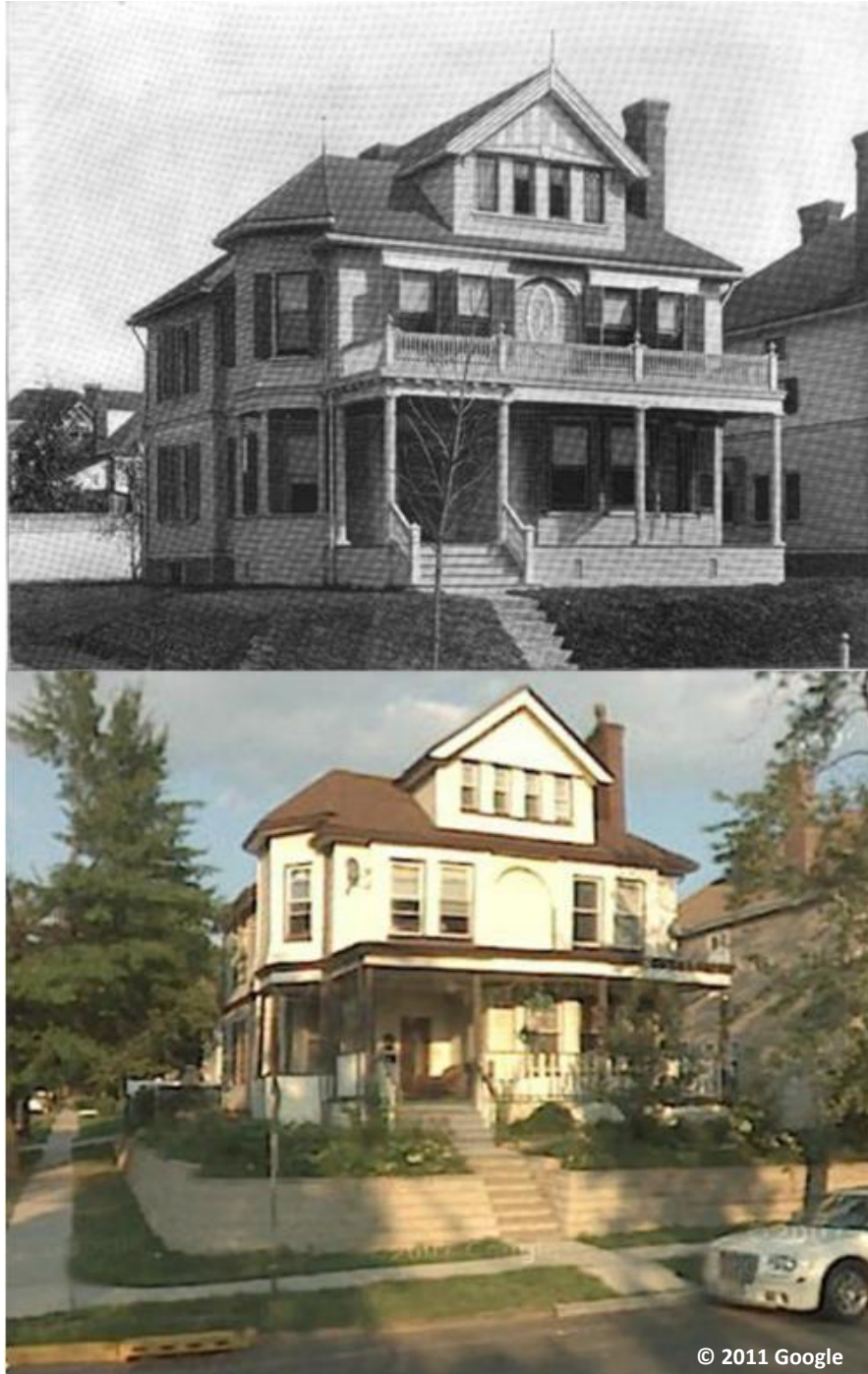
The vintage photo shows the residence of ex-Councilman Abram B. Knapp. One minor change today is the addition of the third-story window on the right side of the home. The home to the left of the Knapp residence in the 1889 photo is also standing today at 62 Dehart Place.



West End Place Homes Then and Now

West End Place home construction was well underway in 1909 as the top photo of four new homes illustrates. The builders were J.W. Eggens Jr. and W.E. Schram. The homes remain today in good condition.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Home on Dehart Place 1894 and Today

This 1894 photo shows the home at 129 Dehart Place at Edgar Place. Note the two lightning rods on the roof and the hitching post at the curb. It was described in an architectural publication of that year as: "A COTTAGE AT ELIZABETH, N. J. This house is built at Elizabeth, N. J. It consists of a basement of brick, upon which is erected a three-story superstructure of frame, covered with notched shingles. A piazza extends across the front, and partly round one side. The second story extends over this latter portion, being supported over same by circular wooden columns, the remaining portion being roofed, and has similar columns supporting it, and a balustrade round. A large four-light dormer window gives light to the third story, which is built in the roof. Its interior arrangements

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

comprise a hall, approached through a vestibule, and containing staircase, parlor, and dining-room, entered direct from hall, a kitchen, and butler's pantry, the latter affording direct communication from kitchen to dining-room. The second floor is arranged for four bedrooms each, provided with closets and a bathroom, the latter having washbasin and water closet. On the third floor are servants' bedrooms, store closets, etc. The architects were Messrs. Charlock & Howard, and the cost was \$4,200."

The home next door at 125 Dehart Place is a mirror image of this home.

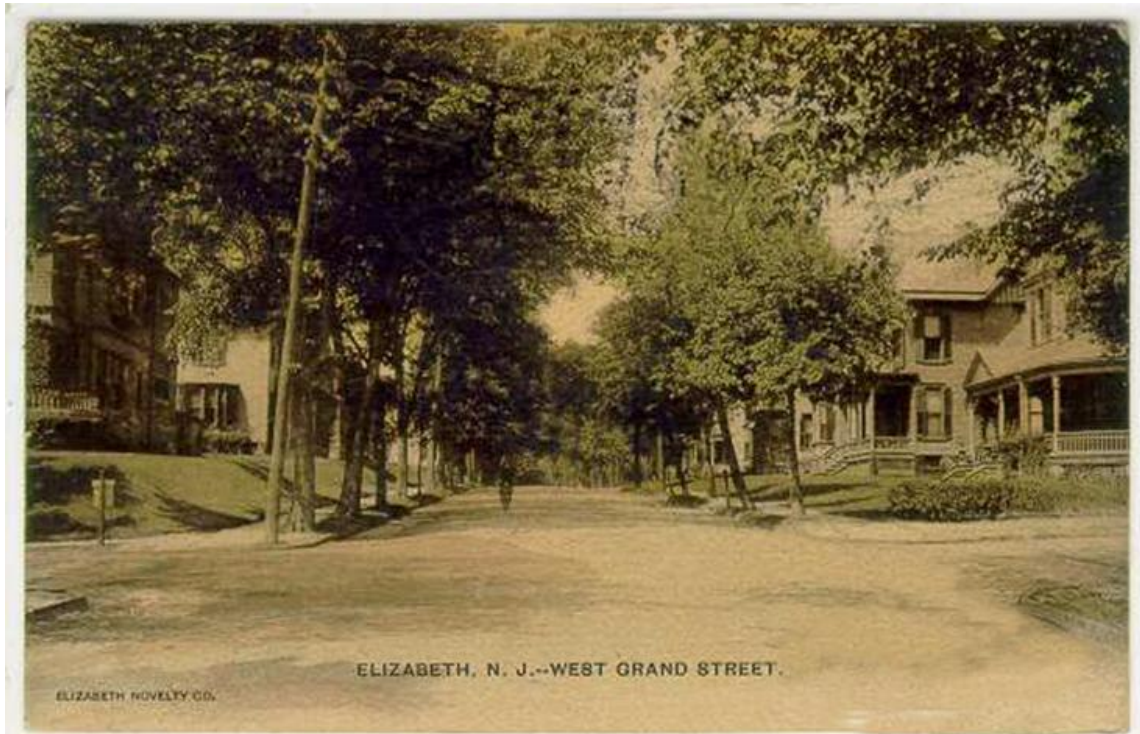
Arnold Samuelsen: "The first occupant I find for this house, at 129 DeHart Place, was Benjamin Darby (1829-1918), who lived there from about 1897 until sometime before 1910. He was a flouring broker at the New York Produce Exchange who at one time also manufactured and sold furnaces. He was born in Fayetteville, Pa., and lived in and around Washington D.C. before coming to Elizabeth about 1872. He lived at 415 N. Broad St. with his wife, who died in 1892, and six children. His son, Norman C. Darby (1873-), who lived with his father, ran the Darby Cycle Co. at 246 N. Broad before moving to Washington in 1900. In 1910, Benjamin Darby and two daughters were living in an apartment building at 1050 Mary St. The next resident of 129 DeHart Place was Benjamin Williams, born in England in 1841. He was a coal shipping agent who lived there from at least 1910 to 1930."



Victorian Home at Dehart Place and Murray St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

These well preserved Victorian homes are at the corner of Dehart Place and Murray St. Lloyd W. Bowers was living at the home on the right, 62 Dehart Place, in the 1870s. In 1879 he graduated from Yale University and in 1882 obtained a law degree from Columbia University. He later moved to Washington, DC where he was named Solicitor General of the Justice Dept., arguing cases before the Supreme Court. Bowers died in 1910.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

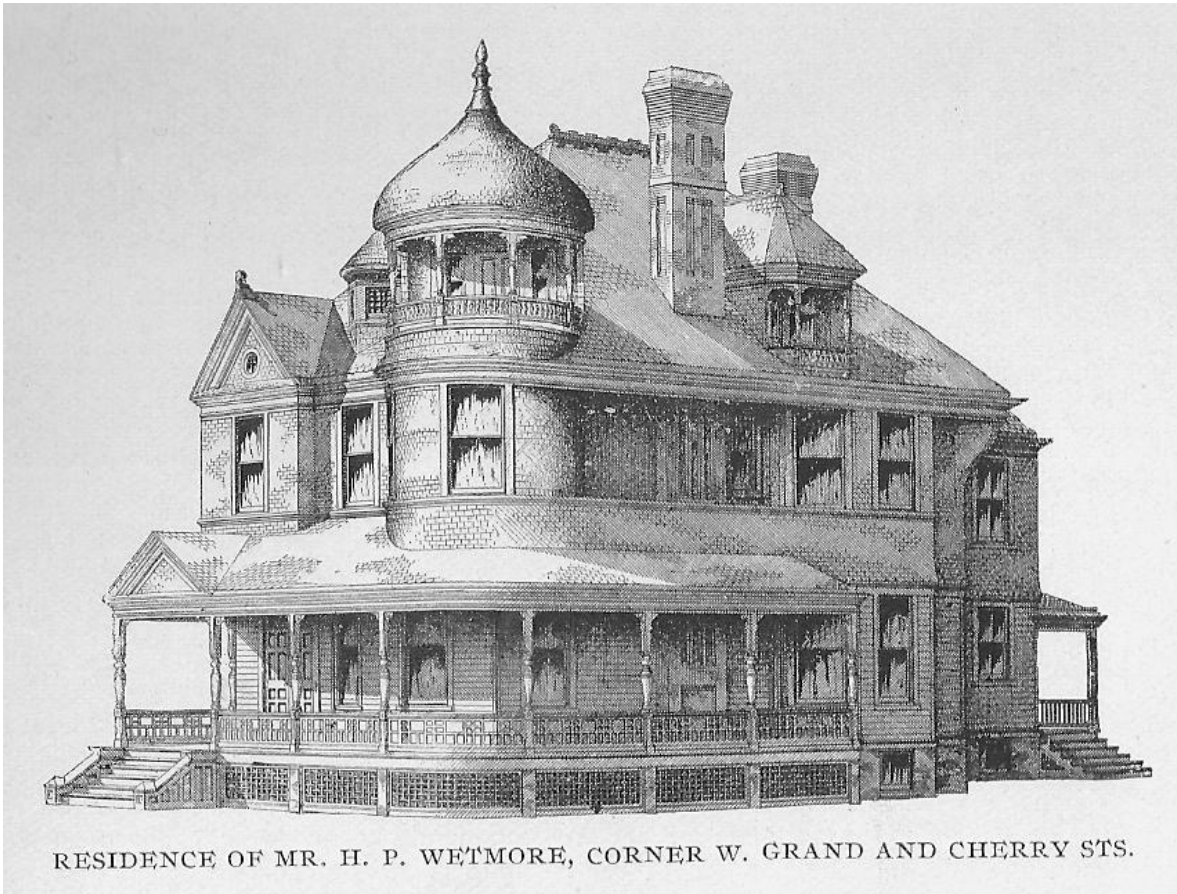


West Grand St. View West from Cherry St.

Tree-lined West Grand St. was once an upscale neighborhood with some of Elizabeth's finest homes, as seen in the this postcard from the early 1900s. The home on the left became Johnny Murphy's Brass Horn restaurant in 1954. The Queen Anne style home on the right, with the wraparound front porch, was designed by architect David B. Provoost in the 1880s.

Today's view shows the distinctive homes replaced by dull looking apartments.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



RESIDENCE OF MR. H. P. WETMORE, CORNER W. GRAND AND CHERRY STS.

Wetmore Residence at 103 West Grand St. 1889

David B. Provoost was a leading architect of Elizabeth's Victorian homes in the late 19th century. He designed this impressive home located at the northwest corner of West Grand and Cherry Streets for Hiram P. Wetmore. The prominent turret, wraparound porch and lavish ornamental details are elements of the Queen Anne style popular in the U.S. at that time.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Hiram Pease Wetmore was born in 1829 in Connecticut and married Elvira Kelly in 1862 at her home in New York City. He is listed in the 1866 Elizabeth directory as living at 49 Meadow St. (now known as Madison Ave.) He was a merchant in "gents furnishings" in New York in earlier years; the 1876 listing shows him living at 410 W. Jersey St. and in real estate in New York. Later he is a real estate broker in Elizabeth, with an office at 4 W. Grand St., and living at 80 W. Grand St. He is listed in the 1894 directory but the '95 directory has Elvira K. Wetmore, widow of Hiram P., boarding at 80 W. Grand. Two years later Elvira is living at 212 Edgar Place and in the 1910 census, the last record for her, she is head of a household of one at 155 Chilton St. The Wetmore's had no children. There is no evidence that they lived at 97 West Grand St., the address for the above pictured mansion."

The 1900 census reported James C. Ogden living here with his wife Jennie, children Harold and Dorothy, and live in nurse Lydia Wilcox. Ogden was a descendant of one of Elizabeth's oldest families, He was an undertaker with a business at 1159 Elizabeth Ave. The 1920 census lists Jennie still living at this home as a widow. The Ogden Funeral Home was later established on North Broad St.

The home was occupied in the 1930s-1940s by Joseph F. Levins and his family of ten children. Levins worked for the Singer Manufacturing Co. Like many distinctive homes in the city, the home was eventually demolished and replaced with an apartment house.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Across the street at 97 West Grand St. and Cherry St. was the Jacob S. Stiner Funeral Home. This large Victorian had a central 4-story tower, a full front porch and side porch. The design was the Second Empire style, with a windowed mansard roof providing a bonus third story often used for live-in servants. The original owner of the home is unknown.

Arnold Samuelsen: "City directories from 1937 to 1950 show the Steiner Funeral Home at 97 W. Grand St. Jacob S. Stiner (1875-1949) is living there in the 1930 census with his wife Jane, whom he married in 1902. They had no children. According to the 1950 directory, he died May 27, 1949, at age 74, and his widow Jane is operating the funeral home. Jacob S. Stiner is shown in earlier directories as operating a funeral home, or employed by one, on Second St. as early as 1898."

The Stiner Funeral Home was demolished sometime after 1954 for a parking lot for the Smith Cadillac dealership next door.



Kiggins Home on West Grand St. 2011 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden

This home with a beautiful wraparound porch is at 96 West Grand St. at Cherry St. The house was converted to office use about 1960 and today is used by Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services

Arnold Samuelsen: "The house on the SE corner, 96 W. Grand St., was occupied by Charles Symmes Kiggins (1843-1930) and his wife Anna B. Norton Kiggins from about 1896 until her death, at age 86, in 1945. The address, 96 W. Grand, first appears in a city directory in 1896. Charles Symmes Kiggins formerly lived with his father Charles Kiggins at 99 Elizabeth Ave. and then 1070 Elizabeth Ave. Charles Symmes was employed by Kiggins and Kellogg, publisher of school books and manufacturer of stationery products at 88 John St. and later 123-125 William St. in New York. City directories show other members of the Kiggins family employed by the firm, which dates to before 1840. According to his obituary in the New York Times, Charles Symmes Kiggins commuted from Elizabeth to his job in New York for 65 years, beginning in 1859 when the Jersey Central operated ferry service from Elizabethport to New York.

The Kiggins and Kellogg publishing firm in New York, later Kiggins, Tooker & Co., was founded by Henry Kiggins (1815-1905) of 260 W. Jersey St. He was a brother of Commodore Charles Arthur Kiggins (1810-1890), the father of Charles Symmes Kiggins. Also working for the firm were Isaac Kiggins, another son of Charles Arthur, and at least two of Henry's four sons."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Victorian Home on West Grand St.

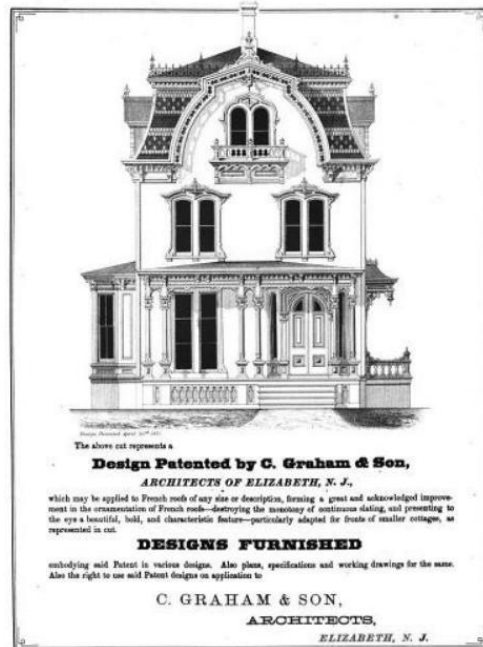
The house at 111 West Grand St., near Cherry St., is typical of the 19th century Victorians that once graced this street. The windowed mansard roof reflects the Second Empire architectural style. The original house was undoubtedly more ornamented but the fine architectural details have been stripped away over the years. The fire escape indicates the large house has been converted into apartments.

Arnold Samuelsen: "City directories for 1883-84 and 1886-87 list the occupants of 111 W. Grand St. as Mary M. Grant, widow of Orville Lynch Grant, and her son Ulysses S. Grant, who works for the United States sub-treasury in New York. Orville was the brother of President Grant.

Albert Scoullar, superintendent of an electric light company in New York, lived at 111 W. Grand in 1890-91.

In 1897, Edward Crawford Davidson, a patent attorney in New York, lived at 111 W. Grand St. with his wife and three children (in a family that was to grow to eight children). He moved the next year to 657 N. Broad St., his residence at the time of his death in 1916 at the age of 62. He died at his summer home in Bay Head. "His death was mainly due to overwork in his twelve-year fight in the courts to uphold the Goodwin film patents, on which the Eastman Kodak Company made a settlement two years ago," said his death notice in the New York Times.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Left: Victorian Home on West Grand St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden. Right: Design Patent of Architect.

This beautifully restored home is one of a group of four similar homes at 118-124 West Grand St. between Cherry and Chilton Streets. They reflect Second Empire architecture. Each home has a distinctive arched dormer on the third floor, an uncommon feature of Victorian homes in Elizabeth. This design was patented by the Elizabeth architectural firm C. Graham & Son as seen in the 1867 ad on the right. The architects describe this home as a "cottage" although today it would be considered a large home.



Victorian Home at 205 West Grand St. Photo: Elizabeth Daily Journal 1913

This home at 205 West Grand St. at Chilton St. reflected the Greek Revival architectural style. The rooftop cupola was borrowed from the Italianate villa style. There were 16 rooms in the home.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The 1920 census reported Albert Lifson, partner in the Miron & Lifson furniture store on First St., lived there. Lifson was born in Russia in 1869 and came to the U.S. in 1889. His wife Tellie, 32, was also Russian. They had a daughter Charlotte, 14 and a son Leslie, 12. Morris Kopp, age 12, lived with the family but his relationship is unknown. Also living there were Charles Atkins, chauffeur, 21 and Martha Atkins, 22, a maid.

A gas station is at the site today.



Proxy Representation of Home on West Grand St.

The Carlton family lived for many years in an impressive home at 236 West Grand St. A photo of the home is not available so this photo of a Victorian home is a proxy representation of the home as it was drawn in the 1922 Sanborn map of West Grand street. It was a 3-story Second Empire home, all brick, rare for Elizabeth, with a wraparound porch on the left side including a gazebo. The home pictured differs slightly since it has a stucco finish and lacks a gazebo on the left side of the porch. But I think it is close enough to convey the grandeur of the Carlton home and its size, with an estimated 15 rooms. The interior was likely replete with marble fireplaces, a grand staircase and elaborate wood moldings.

The 1900 Census reports William J. Carlton, 62, living there with his daughters Helen J., 33; May W., 27; Mildred, 18; son Edward W., 25; and servants Johanna M. Casey, 24 and Bridget Dingnan, 25, both from Ireland. The family belonged to the Elizabeth Town and Country on North Broad St. Carlton, a Civil War veteran, was in the advertising business in New York. One of his employees, James Walter Thompson later bought the Carlton agency and renamed it the J. Walter Thompson Company, which became one of the largest ad agencies in New York.

Helen J. Carlton remained single and continued to live in the home as head of the household with two sisters and two servants until 1919 and possibly later. She was active in missionary work.

The stately home was eventually demolished and replaced with an apartment building.

Arnold Samuelsen: "William J. Carlton and Helen Newcomb Carlton had another son, Newcomb Carlton (1869-1953), who was president of the Western Union Telegraph Co. 1914-33. The papers and diaries of William J. Carlton are part of the J. Walter Thompson collection at the Duke University Library."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



1907 Ad of the El Mora Land Company for New Homes

The development of the Elmora section of Elizabeth took place from about 1900 to the early 1920s, led by the El Mora Land Co. of which J.W. Doolittle was president. Westfield Ave. is the main thoroughfare of Elmora and beautiful homes were built along the street. The Central Railroad station, located at the junction of Westfield and Elmora Avenues, made living here attractive to wealthy residents who commuted to work in New York. The installation of trolley service in the early 1900s, connecting Elizabeth and Plainfield, also spurred development.

The 1907 ad of the El Mora Land Co. promoted "attractive cottages" which were actually large homes by today's standards. This style home had clean lines, without the gingerbread ornamentation of the Victorian designs found in older sections of the city.

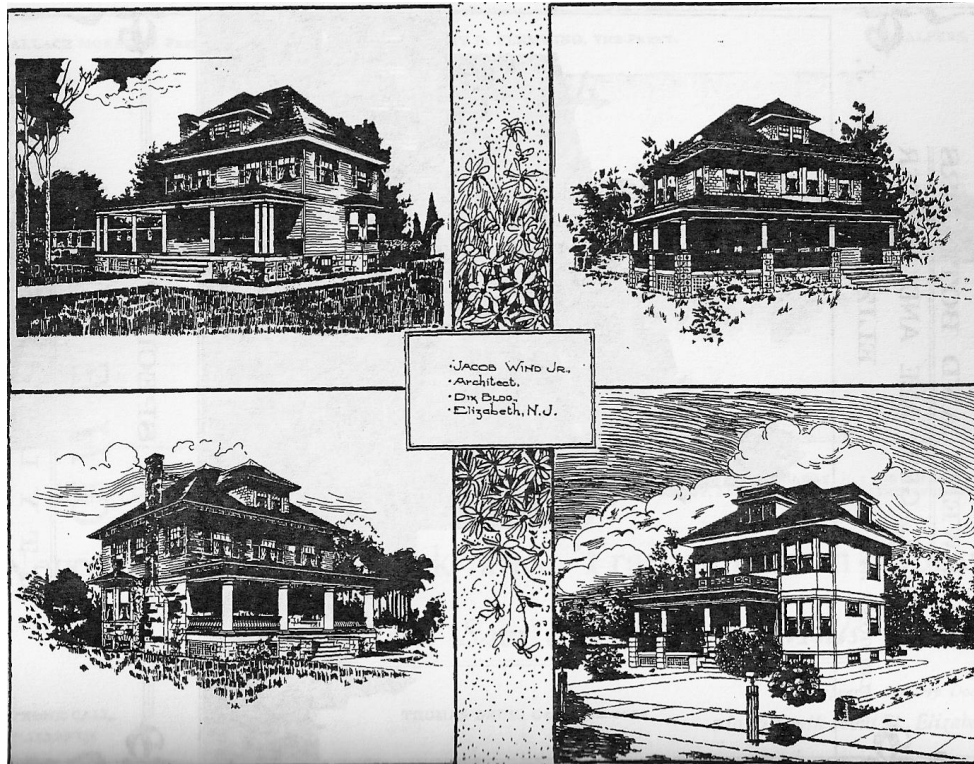


"Double House" on Westfield Ave.

The "double house", now called a two-family or duplex, in the above photo is at 872 Westfield Ave. It was built in 1915 for Judge Abe J. David.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

In the early 1900s, Elizabeth architect Jacob Wind Jr. advertised colonial designs with wraparound front porches, first and second floor bay windows, and third floor windowed dormers, as seen in the image below:



1907 Ad for Homes Designed by Jacob Wind Jr. Similar Styles are Found on Westfield Ave. Homes.

The 1909 photo below shows a new two-family home on the south side of Westfield Ave. Although the architect is unknown, the design has elements favored by Jacob Wind Jr. Isaac W. Sproats, a boilermaker, was one of the residents in 1919. The home remains in use today at 666 Westfield Ave.



New Home on Westfield Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Another architect who influenced the design of Westfield Ave. homes was Charles W. Oakley of the Elizabeth architectural firm of J. A. Oakley & Son. He built this cottage style home, at 412 Westfield Ave., for his family residence in 1901:



COTTAGE ERECTED FOR MR. CHARLES W. OAKLEY, WESTFIELD AVENUE, ELIZABETH, N. J.

J. A. OAKLEY & SON, ARCHITECTS.

The front porch is formal, with fluted columns and a Greek temple inspired pediment above the entrance steps. Note the distinctive oriel style bay window on the right side. The windowed dormers on the third floor allowed the attic to have finished rooms as extra space for a large family or live in servants. The homes pictured here were replaced by a commercial building and parking lot some years ago.

By 1904, Oakley had designed and built another home across the street at 405 Westfield Ave. The colonial revival style home is shown in the photo below.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Home of Architect Charles W. Oakley at 405 Westfield Ave. in 1904

The 1910 census reports Oakley living here with his wife Mary, daughters Ruth and Selma, and live in servants Elizabeth Stegerman and Henry Pratt.

The home was later remodeled with the expansion of the first floor into the original front porch. This was probably done for the use as the Mitchell Heck Funeral Home. Mary Lou Mitchell Heck went to Benedictine Academy and mortuary science school. She became a partner with her father in the Mitchell Heck Funeral Home which operated until about 1968. The home later became the office of the Rinaldo & Rinaldo law firm. It was demolished a few years ago along with the neighboring homes, presumably for an apartment or commercial building.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Charles W. Oakley, born 1874, architect, lived at 405 Westfield Ave. with his wife, two daughters and two live-in-servants in the 1910 census. He lived at 1261 Clinton Place in 1920 and 1930. In 1900 Charles and his wife Mary lived with his father Jesse A. Oakley at 1201 East Broad St. Abraham Isaac, a scrap metal dealer, lived at 405 Westfield Ave. at the time of his death in 1947."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Westfield Ave. View West from Cherry St.

This early 1900s postcard is a view of Westfield Ave. looking west from Cherry to Chilton Streets. The quiet, tree lined block was developed in the late 19th to early 20th century. It was the most beautiful section of Westfield Ave. with elegant homes on large, well landscaped lots.

The home on the right, at 105 Westfield Ave., dated to 1889 or earlier. The 2.5 story home was on a large lot adjacent to the Cherry St. Public School No. 4. The owner was Walden P. Scrymser who worked on Wall St., in real estate, and in the hardware business. He died in 1897 at age 54, survived by four sisters who lived with him.

The 1900 census reports Katherine Scrymser as head of the household that included her sisters Ada, Florence and Emma Digges. Mary Berry and Deliah Ford were live-in servants from Ireland. Residing in a 2-story stable in the rear of the property were James Coleman, a gardener from Ireland, his wife Julia and six children.

The 1921 Elizabeth city directory listed Ada and Florence Scrymser still living there. The home and the old Cherry St. school were razed in 1927 for the construction of the Alexander Hamilton Junior High School.

When I lived on Westfield Ave. in the late 1950s, I was intrigued by the mysterious looking Victorian home at 102 Westfield Ave. at the corner of Cherry St., shown in the photo below. The home dates to the early 1900s. The three-story windowed tower is characteristic of the Queen Anne design and was an ornamental flourish favored by Elizabeth architect William H. Hoover, Jr. Hoover also designed the Hilson Cigar factory on Livingston St., buildings for the Stephenson Trolley Car Works in Bayway, and the Tarrytown, New York post office.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

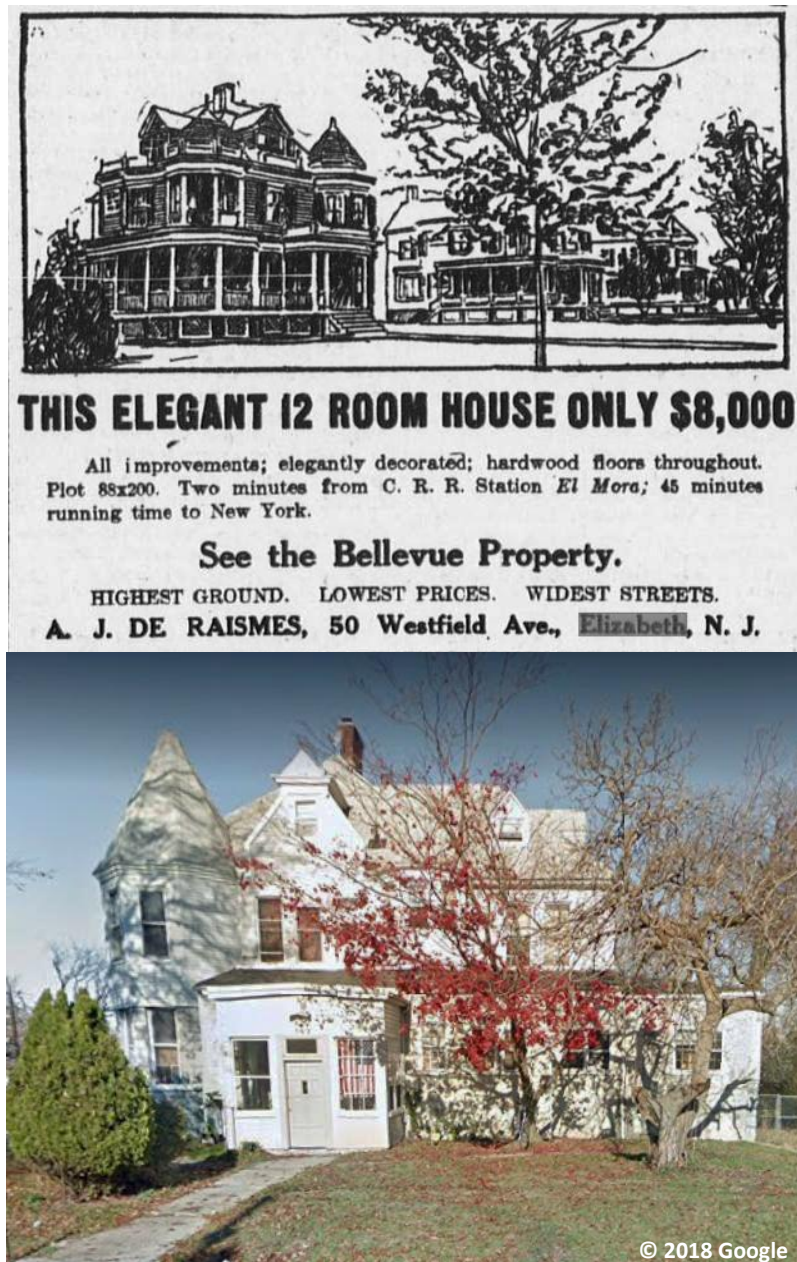


Victorian style home at 102 Westfield Ave. 2010 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

When I lived at 127 Westfield Ave. in the late 1950s, I was intrigued by the mysterious looking Victorian home on the corner of Westfield Ave. and Cherry St., pictured today in the photo on the right. The three-story windowed tower is characteristic of the Queen Anne design and was an ornamental flourish favored by Elizabeth architect William H. Hoover, Jr. Hoover also designed buildings at the John Stephenson Trolley Car works at Bayway, the Hilson Cigar factory on Livingston St., and the Tarrytown, NY post office.

The 1919 city directory lists William H. Craig, a contractor, residing there. At that time, the third story section of the tower was likely open as a balcony porch. Today the home appears to be a multi-family or rooming house.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Queen Anne Style Home at 163 Westfield Ave.

This 1907 New York Sun real estate ad listed the home built at 163 Westfield Ave. at Chilton St. The sale price of the 12-room home was \$8,000 which is equivalent to \$185,000 today. The railroad station and trolley service along Westfield Ave., which extended to Plainfield, were major factors in the rapid growth of the Elmora suburb in the early 1900s.

The 1910 census reports Bernard McLain was living there with his wife Hannah, daughters Ellen, Hannah and Grace, and sons William and Bernard Jr. William graduated from Yale University and was a real estate broker in New York by 1919.

The home is representative of the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture. The two turrets, topped with cone shaped roofs, and wraparound front porch are typical elements of this style. Today's view show the porch is gone,

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

replaced with an addition in the front, perhaps for a professional office. But at least the home has survived as a reminder of a once elegant neighborhood.



August F. Schmidt Funeral Home at 139 Westfield Ave. 2010 Photo by R.J. Baptista

The beautiful home at 139 Westfield Ave. is well known as the August F. Schmidt Funeral Home. It was built about 1888 but the original owner is unknown. Charles Randolph Myer (1866-1943) lived there from about 1897 to 1926. The 1910 census lists Myer residing there with his wife Anna, children Charles Randolph Jr., Pettit, Millard, and Mary, along with live in servants Mary Rydzinsky, a house maid, and Lottie Rydzinsky, a cook. The servants were German immigrants.

Myer was a partner in Sutphen and Myer, a plate glass distributor in New York. Myer probably distributed glass for Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) which was formed in 1895 from several smaller companies. When Myer retired in 1917 he sold his inventory to PPG and some of his employees joined PPG. The Myer family were members of the Elizabeth Town and Country Club on North Broad St. Charles Randolph Jr. graduated from MIT in 1922.

In 1927 the home was rented by Warrington C. Wademan for use as the Wademan Conservatory of Music. August F. Schmidt purchased the home about 1934 for use as a funeral home. Schmidt began his undertaking and furniture business in Elizabethport in 1888. By 1921 his son Arthur F. Schmidt joined the business which had relocated to 649 Elizabeth Ave. near Union Square. The family home was at 350 Chilton St. at the time. Today the funeral home is owned by James A. Gordon Jr. in partnership with Bart P. Brazinski.

The Queen Anne style home remains one of the most distinctive in Elizabeth, with stone construction, wraparound front porch, bay windows, dramatic roof lines, tall chimneys and beautiful landscaping. The architect is unknown.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



1905 Scene of Westfield Ave. Future Schmidt Funeral Home in Center. Morewood Home at No. 135 on Right.

In 1910 William B. Morewood was living at 135 Westfield Ave. and may have been the original owner. He was an inventor and cofounder of the Morewood Standard Safety Devices Co. and a partner in an auto dealership, both located in New York. The home has about 15 rooms, certainly one of the larger mansions in the city, and it provided ample space for the large Morewood family that included wife Maria, children Agnes, John, Thomas, Alfred, Helen, Margaret, Henry and Catherine, along with sister-in-law Florence Melville.

In contrast to the well preserved Schmidt Funeral Home, the Morewood home lost much of its original Queen Anne ornamentation over the years, including the second story balcony atop the front porch and the windowed solarium on the right side.

By the 1950s the home was converted into a rooming house owned by the Ives family. Mrs. Ives invited me in one day and I remember a grand staircase in the entrance foyer leading to the second floor and a wood beamed ceiling. The foyer was paneled with woodwork stained dark walnut.

The rooming house went out of business and the home was recently sold to a developer, and replaced by a dull looking apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Baptista home at 127 Westfield Ave. 2013 Photo by R.J. Baptista

A 1906 city ward map shows the owner of this home at 127 Westfield Ave. was Elizabeth F. Morgan. The colonial style home may have been designed by Elizabeth architect Jacob Wind Jr. who incorporated wraparound front porches and second floor central bay windows in his designs.

The 1910 census shows George B. Sheppard was residing at 127 Westfield Ave. with wife Jennie, son Harvey, and live in servant Mary Delgers, a Polish immigrant. Sheppard was in the rope business. The home was later converted into a two-family with six rooms on the first floor and five on the second and third floors where we lived 1957--1960.

My parents purchased the home from Royal and Jolie Klein, who operated a beauty parlor on the first floor. They retired and moved to an apartment in the Salem Avenue area. They gave us wicker chairs for the wraparound porch, a wonderful sounding old Zenith radio mounted in the cellar workshop, and a Reo gas powered reel mower. There was a 3-car garage and my father rented a space for \$5 a month to a man who lived in an apartment across the street.

The property was graced with large chestnut trees in the front yard and in the backyard where a patio was built around the tree. We enjoyed many family barbecues under the cool shade.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Backyard patio under chestnut tree at 127 Westfield Ave. 1957 Photo by R.J. Baptista.

The home just to the east was Dr. Heinemeyer's chiropractic office and residence. He was a ham radio operator with a tower in the backyard and radio equipment inside his home. The second home to the east of us, next to Alexander Hamilton Junior High School, was owned by Galen Berkebile who operated a photography studio there. The Berkebiles invited us over one day to watch their new color TV, one of the first in Elizabeth. Across the street was Dr. Hunt's office and residence. Dr. Arthur had her office and residence further down the block opposite the Schmidt Funeral Home.

My brother Joe remembers how hot this house was in the summer without central air conditioning. Our bedrooms were on the third floor. My father put in an attic fan for cooling but it sounded like a jet plane so we didn't use it much at night. The basement was divided into various rooms for laundry, workshop, furnace and coal bin which we used for storage since the home had been converted to oil heat. There was a full bathroom in the basement, a common feature in the early 1900s for homes with live in servants.

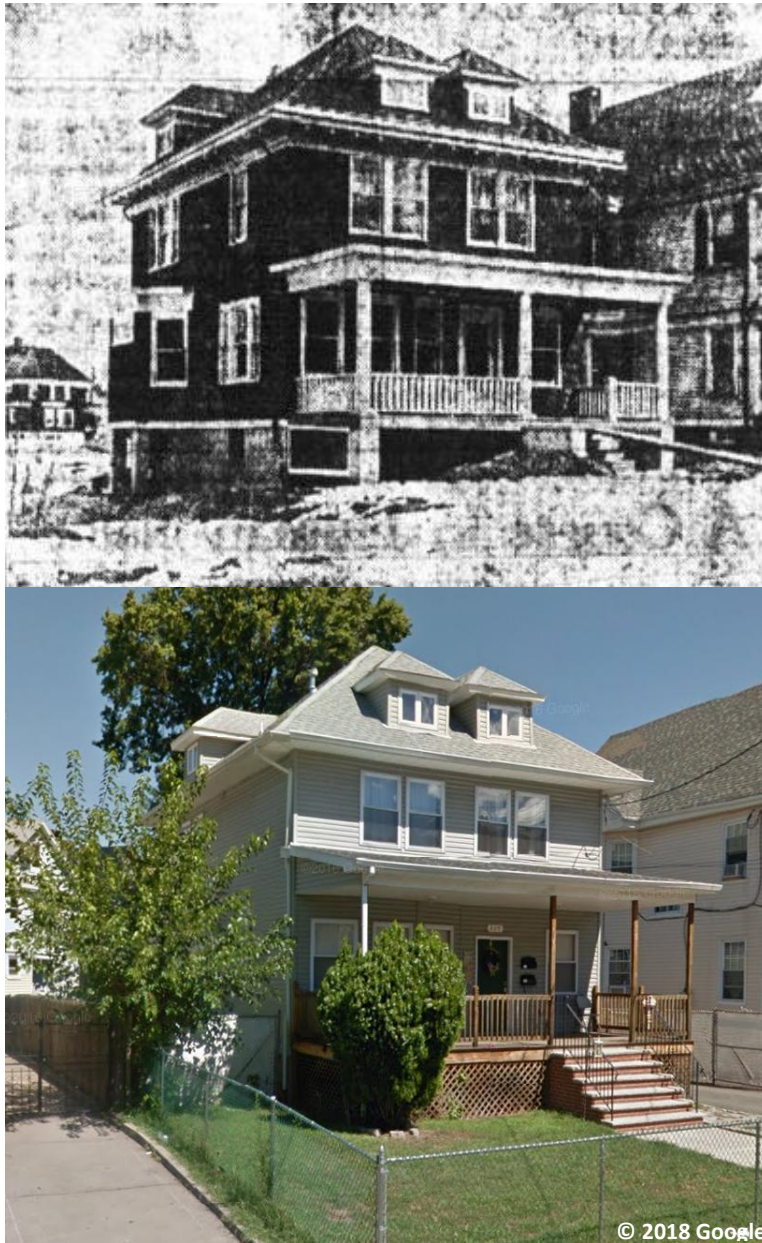
My father soon realized the rental income was insufficient to cover the mortgage, taxes and maintenance costs of this large home. In 1960 we sold the home to the Majewski family and moved to a new home in Cranford.

Our former home was sold to a developer and was replaced, along with the adjoining home at 135 Westfield Ave., by an apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Some of the fine homes on the south side of Westfield Avenue were torn down and replaced with apartment buildings, beginning in the 1950s. Now the larger homes on the north side of the street face the same fate. The trend to higher density housing in Elizabeth reflects the changed demographics to a more transient, lower income population compared to the early 1900s.

I thank Arnold Samuelsen and Susan Cullen Neves for contributing historical information about some of the homes on this block of Westfield Ave.



Westfield Ave. Home Then and Now

By 1914, there were only a few undeveloped lots left on Westfield Ave. all the way to the Roselle Park line. This home at 229 Westfield Ave., between Chilton St. and Magie Ave., was built that year for Mrs. Lena Stamler. The 2.5 story home, finished in clapboard and shingles, cost \$5,950 exclusive of the cost of the 51 by 140 foot lot. The first floor had a reception hall, living room, library, dining room, kitchen and butler's pantry. On the second

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

floor were four large bedrooms and bathroom. Third floor had a servant's room. The interior was trimmed in chestnut and birch woods. Parquet floors were installed on the first floor and hardwood on the second floor.

The 1920 census listed Lena Stamler as a 62 year old widow who was born in Vienna. Also living at the home were her son Charles Stamler, 30, daughter Jeanette, 25, and servant Jennie Laird, 42, from Scotland.

The home remains today as a single family in excellent condition with the front porch still open.



Victorian Home on Westfield Ave.

This photo postcard dated 1908 shows the home at 255 Westfield Ave., on the block between Chilton St. and Magie Ave., owned by Elwood Rue, a New York builder. The 1910 census reported Rue, 59, lived there with his wife Lizzie, 55, and niece Emma Holcombe, 45.

The home was of the popular 19th century Second Empire design, with a mansard roof providing added living space on the third floor. The home is long gone and that stretch of Westfield Ave. now has commercial buildings and apartments.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



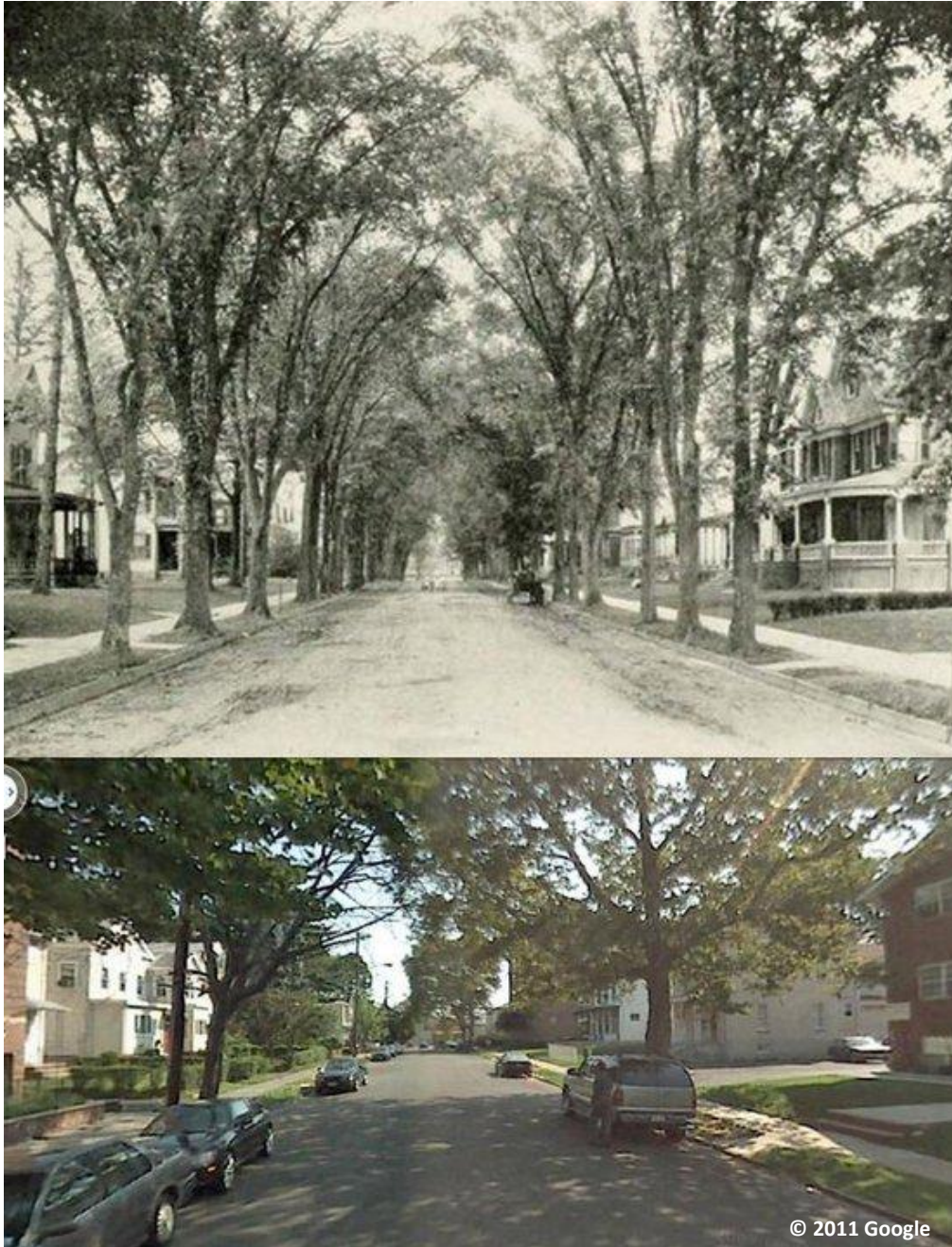
ELIZABETH, N. J.
155 Orchard st., Elizabeth, N. J., lot 35x153; 1st floor, 4 rooms and butler's pantry; 4 bedrooms and bath; all improvements; new house; price \$5,000; easy terms. Particulars
R. L. PATTERSON,
212 BROAD ST., ELIZABETH, N. J.



Home on Orchard St. 1907 and Today

This eight room home at 153 Orchard St. was built in 1907 and cost \$3,000. The windows, siding and front porch have been modified along with the addition of a dormer, most likely to convert attic space to a bedroom. Today the home is valued at \$232, 700.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elm St. View East to Morris Ave.

Elm St. was indeed a tree-lined street when this photo was taken in 1905. The view is toward the east and the intersection with Morris Ave. You can see a horse and carriage down the block on the right. Some of the homes on the block date to the Civil War era. The large home on the right, with the wraparound porch, was demolished and replaced with an apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Hirtzel Home on Cherry St. ca. 1904 and Today. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

George L. Hirtzel was proprietor of a music store, selling pianos and victrolas, located at 211 Broad St., the former site of Citizens Bank. About 1904 he engaged the architectural firm J. A. Oakley & Son to design a new home at the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

corner of Cherry and Stiles Streets. The foundation and first floor were built of hollow concrete blocks with the second floor and attic of conventional frame construction. The first floor had a kitchen, butler's pantry, dining room, parlor and library; the second floor had five bedrooms and a bathroom; the third floor had a bedroom. The house was piped for gas, wired for electric lighting, and had four telephones. The basement had a coal-fired boiler, coal bin, cold storage area, and a laundry area.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The original owner of 500 Cherry St., corner of Stiles, was George L. Hirtzel Sr. (1848-1915), who ran a saloon at 201 Broad St., corner of E. Grand. His wife Bertha died in 1919. Three Hirtzel children continued to live there until the early 1920s. In the 1920 census George L. Hirtzel Jr. (1874-1964) is head of household that includes his brother Emil J. Hirtzel (1880-1965), sister Catherine and her husband George R. Rowland and two live-in servants.

Dr. Walter J. Dahlberg had his home and office here until he died in 1951. In 1955 the house next to it on Stiles Street blew up (gas explosion, no casualties) and a one-story addition was built to accommodate the Cherry Hill Rest Home. It has 18 bed rooms and 11 full baths and has been on and off the market for years. The most recent asking price was \$649,000."

Nearby was the large, upscale home at 515 Cherry St. The Huntington family lived there in the early 1900s. The 1910 Census listed the occupants as Clarence W. Huntington, his wife Edith, son John, daughter Helen, mother-in-law Mary Chapin, and William Brown and Rose Brown, servants from Virginia.

Clarence W. Huntington started his career as a brakeman for the Rock Island Railroad. He rose through the ranks of the railroad industry and became general superintendent of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, serving until 1914. He was named president of the Virginia Railroad Co. in 1917. His son W. Chapin Huntington became a physician and was living at the family home in 1919.

Clarence W. Huntington died in Elizabeth in 1927. The 1940 Census reported Edith Huntington, then a 79 year old widow, living in the home alone.

According to David Van Pelt, Madeline Bristol and her son Tony Bristol were living there at least through the 1970s. Her ex-husband was William Bristol, who at one time headed Bristol Myers' International Division. Bristol-Myers, a pharmaceutical company, had a plant on Rt. 22 in Hillside.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bogard Home on Stiles St. Photo Courtesy of Robin Bogard Mower.

Stiles St. had many classic Victorian homes such as at no. 40 at the corner of Cherry St. It represents the Second Empire architectural style characterized by a mansard roof with dormers, twinned windows with arches and a beautiful wraparound front porch with a gazebo on the corner. Note the fine ornamental details like decorative wooden brackets under the eaves, dentil molding at the roof line and on the porch, sculptured porch pillars and railing, and glass transom over the front door.

Tabor Harris, founder of the Tabor Manufacturing Co., lived here in the early 1900s. Harris was an engineer whose company made molding machines. He died in 1908.

The 1919 City Directory lists Edith Johnson living here. She had a live in coachman, Joseph Morgan.

Later it was the home of Edward R. Bogard, a well known photographer with a studio for many years at 326 Morris Ave. The stately home unfortunately met the same fate as many others in Elizabeth, namely demolition to make way for a dull looking apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Precheur Home on Stiles St. 1898 and Today

Homes built in the Elmora section had a modern look compared to the Victorian designs popular in the older sections of the city. This center hall colonial at 116 Stiles St., designed by noted architect David B. Provoost, was built in 1897 for John L. Precheur. The nine room home had on the first floor a front and rear parlor, kitchen, dining room and butler's pantry. The second floor had four bedrooms, sewing room and bathroom. The interior was finished in white pine, varnished in its natural state. The attic had one finished room, probably for a servant, and two unfinished rooms. In the cellar were coal, steam furnace, and laundry rooms plus a servant's bathroom. It had both gas and electric lighting, call bells and speaker tubes. The roof was slate.

This home remains today in good condition with the front porch enclosed and the second floor balcony removed.



Victorian Home on Stiles St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

A beautiful old home in Elmora is at 136 Stiles St. This Second Empire style home with mansard roof, was built in 1902. It has been converted to a multi-family home but the exterior is little changed from the date it was built.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Arnold Samuelson: " One of the former owners of 136 Stiles St. was Alfred B. Strickler Sr., an engineer for Esso Research and Engineering, who lived there with his wife Ruth A. and son Alfred B. Jr., from at least 1941 until his death in 1955. He grew up in Lancaster County, Pa., graduated from Penn State and served in both World Wars, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. One of his brothers was Lt. Gen. Daniel B. Strickler, who commanded the 28th Infantry Division in World War II and Korea. Alfred B. Strickler died March 29, 1955, one day short of his 60th birthday."



Colonial Home on Stiles St. Photos: RealtyMark First Choice, Parlin, NJ.

Old homes in Elizabeth have a timeless quality if they are well-maintained, like this three-story colonial at 146 Stiles St. It has been remodeled into a three-family apartment house, but many of the original design elements remain, such as the wraparound front porch and beautiful woodwork in the interior. Edgar Clark Marsh lived there in the early 1900s. Joseph F. Ives, a salesman, lived there in 1919.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Location of Wilson Home on Stiles St.

In the late 1950s when I lived on nearby Westfield Ave., I delivered newspapers in the neighborhood and recall a grand old home on a 1-2 acre plot on the north side of Stiles near Chilton St.

Arnold Samuelsen researched the history of this home and found: "John Adams Wilson (1817-1873), a dry goods dealer from Pittsburgh and an uncle of President Woodrow Wilson, came to Elizabeth about 1867-69 and lived at 183 Stiles Street from at least 1872, according to the city directory of that year. The 1870 census shows him living in Elizabeth's Sixth Ward, which at that time included Stiles St., with his wife Sarah B. and children Tiernan, 23; Dunlop, 21; Helen, 18, and Sarah, 14. The household included three live-in servants and a gardener, who had a wife and child. The gardeners usually had an apartment in the barn or in another building on the property. According to the 1870 census, his real estate was worth \$50,000 and his personal estate \$110,000, an increase from \$10,000 and \$1,500, respectively, from 10 years before when he lived in or near Pittsburgh. In 1870, he was involved in the dry goods business in New York, which sons Tiernan and Dunlop were later engaged in.

John Wilson died at home in Elizabeth Dec. 4, 1873, according to an obituary in the Pittsburgh Gazette. He was born Sept. 13, 1817 in Steubenville, Ohio, the fifth of 10 children of James Wilson and Ann Adams. John Wilson's younger brother Joseph Ruggles Wilson, a Presbyterian minister, was the father of President Wilson. John's widow Sarah moved to New York before 1880 and died Jan. 8, 1915 in Brooklyn at the home of daughter Sarah Bella Wilson Shope. John and Sarah are buried in Pittsburgh."

John A. Wilson was a wealthy man, owning assets the equivalent of \$2.7 million today. So he could certainly afford an elegant home with live in servants and a gardener to maintain the large property. Aerial photos show the home was demolished after 1966 and replaced with two rather ordinary apartment buildings, further diminishing Elizabeth's architectural heritage.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



McManus Home on Stiles St. 1903. 2012 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The former home of furniture dealer Joseph F. McManus still stands in excellent condition on the corner of Stiles and Chilton Streets. This is a beautiful and well preserved example of Queen Anne architecture.

Arnold Samuelson: "The address is 196 Stiles St. Joseph McManus was living in this house in 1910 with wife Alice and all seven of their living children, ages 12 to 29. The 1900 census has him at 32 Cherry St."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Colonial Home on Stiles St. 1907 and Today. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Noted Elizabeth architect C. Godfrey Poggi designed this home at 202 Stiles St., at the corner of Chilton St., in the early 1900s. The Elmora section was being rapidly developed at this time, with many residents preferring the clean lines of colonial style homes compared to the ornamented Victorian styles of the 19th century.

Philip Gensheimer, assistant general manager of the New York Metal & Thermit Co., was living here at the time of his death in 1919. The home remains today in a remodeled and enlarged version, with new wings on the left side and in the rear.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Moore Home on Stiles St.

This beautiful home is at the northwest corner of Stiles and Chilton Streets. It was built in 1902 with a colonial revival design that includes some architectural details from the Victorian age. Note the decorative brackets under the eaves, the sculptured arch over the dormer and the decorative porch pillars. There is a rare two-story side porch facing Chilton St. A lion sculpture on this side of the home may have been a fountain.

Arnold Samuelsen: "This house is known as 205 Stiles St. and was occupied, from at least 1907, by Samuel L. Moore Jr. (1852-1932) and wife Mary (1856-1921). With his brothers he operated the Samuel L. Moore Co., iron works and shipbuilding, which was started by his father in 1854. The shipyard was leased by Lewis Nixon in 1893 and it was renamed Crescent. This house was occupied by Elmer Pontin from about 1947 to his death in 1956. He was president of Security Towing Corporation, and vice president of the Pontin Boat Corporation and the Pontin Lighterage in New York."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



El Mora Land Co. Office on Westfield Ave. Photo Courtesy of Arnold Samuelson.

The office of the El Mora Land Company was located at 821 Westfield Ave. on the left side of this 1910 postcard. The real estate development company, of which J. W. Doolittle was president, had a major role in transforming the once rural, wooded area into a suburb of Elizabeth in the early 1900s.

A typical new home cost \$5,000 (equivalent to \$118,000 today). All city improvements were available including water, sewer, gas, electric and telephone service. The Elmora train station was only 14 miles from Manhattan, a 31 minute ride. Trolley service along Westfield Avenue, connecting Elizabeth and Plainfield, began in 1900. All these amenities contributed to the development of Elmora.

The former El Mora Land Co. building remains today on a triangular lot bound by Westfield Ave. and Colonia and Princeton Roads. It is currently the dental office of Neil F. Fabricant DMD.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Rural Elmor 1905-1907

These scenes of a rural Elmor date to the early 1900s when the development of this residential suburb was beginning. The top left photo shows a dirt road carved into the hilly, rolling land. The top right photo is of Park Avenue. The bottom left photo shows a heavily wooded area. The bottom right photo is a view from the New Jersey Central Railroad station.

A large tract of land north and south of Westfield Ave. was owned by John R. McPherson (1833-1897), who served as U.S. Senator from New Jersey 1877-1895. He foresaw the impact of the railroad on the future of this land and invested thousands of dollars in planning for the development. But just as home construction started, McPherson died and the land was included in his bequest to Yale University. Development stalled until a syndicate of New York businessmen purchased the land and formed the El Mor Land Co.

The origin of the name El Mora has not been positively established. The earliest New York Times news article mentioning El Mora dates to 1892. Maps of the city dated 1872 and 1874 do not mention El Mora but it is listed on the city map of 1898 when development was underway. El Mora was outside the city limits and not annexed until 1910, perhaps explaining why it is not mentioned in books such as Hatfield's History of Elizabeth published in 1868. El Morro is a Spanish term meaning "The Promontory". Elmor is hilly, with the highest elevation in the Elmor Hills area, so perhaps this explains the origin of El Mora. But the question remains who named it and when?

Arnold Samuelsen researched this topic and reported: "Below is page taken from the book, "Fifty Years Young", the story of Elmor School 1908-1958, by Eugenia Wade Colford. It has some suggestions on how the name "El Mora" may have come about:

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

CHAPTER IV. What An Unusual name!

ELMORA School is one school in the city to bear the name of the area which it serves, rather than the name of an historic or locally significant personage. Where the name "Elmora" arose is still uncertain, but it had definitely been applied to this section long before the school used it. Old-timers remember the name was said to have meant "the blackberry patch" in Spanish, and indeed this was open country where such a description might have at one time been very fitting. But this is only hearsay, and no factual basis can be found.

Before 1908, the street which served as the dividing line between the city of Elizabeth and the Township of Union had been known variously as "El Mora Avenue", "Bay Way" and "North Avenue". Indeed, there had been a suburban station of the Central Railroad of New Jersey known as "West Elizabeth or El Mora" prior to 1889. According to the railroad's records, the name was suggested by a Mr. Bronson, from whom they bought the land for the present station, about 1868, when it was moved from the eastern side of the street to get beyond the city limits and have a lower tax assessment. The new name was supposed to stand for Ellen Moore, and to have a soft sound. On the other hand, a contemporary historian suggests that if El Mora received its name before 1876, the railroad president of that time, who had already named Fanwood and Netherwood, might have named El Mora after his daughter Emily and his friend James Moore, the chief engineer.

Certain it is that the new school in this area soon became known as the "El Mora School", with the official change apparent in 1915-1916. The Superintendent's report for June 1915 shows that the "Magie Avenue School" had four classes with 164 pupils, of which 84 were on part-time. Yet in August the Business Manager reported repairs to the "El Mora School", and the Board's Committee on Sites and New Buildings reported at the same time the State's approval of architect C. G. Poggi's plans for the new "El Mora" building. The Superintendent's report for June 1916, listing the faculty as five, with Miss Anna Condell as "Principal, teaching", is the last report in which the school is designated as "Magie Avenue". In all subsequent reports, it appears as "School #12, El Mora".

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Westfield Ave. Homes 1905 and Today

The Elizabeth-Plainfield trolley glides along suburban Westfield Ave. in this 1905 postcard. The two Dutch Colonial style homes with gambrel roofs, near the intersection with Morristown Road, remain today with some alterations. The bottom photo shows a wing has been added to this home for a doctor's office.

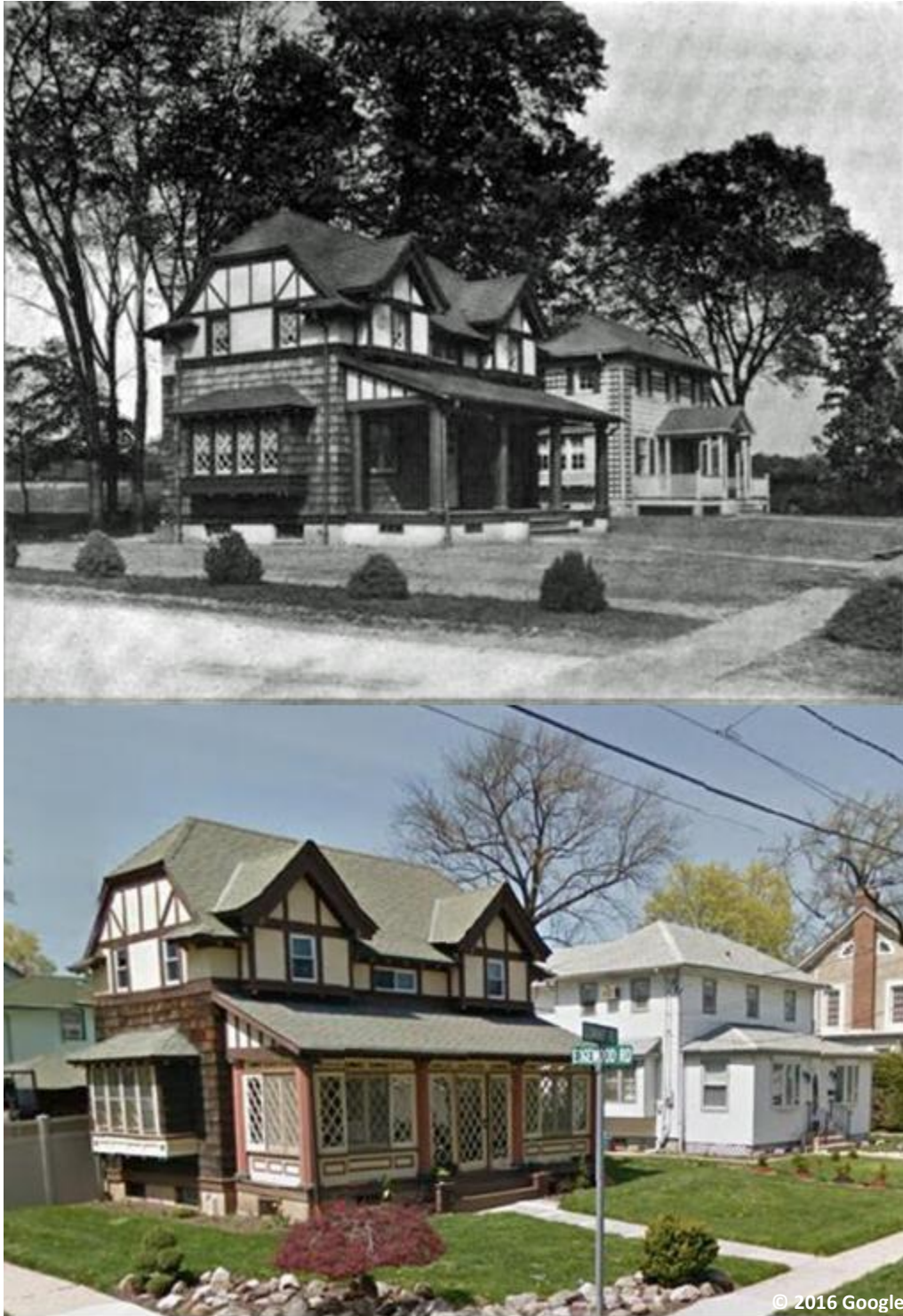
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

In 1898 ex-Congressman John Kean, owner of the Elizabeth Street Railway Co., bid \$250,000 for the franchise rights to construct the trolley line. The 60 foot wide Westfield Ave. would become a 100 foot wide boulevard. Union County exercised the right of eminent domain to obtain the necessary land, compensating the unhappy property owners from \$100 to \$4,000. Elmora property developers such as the Old Colony Land Co. deeded tracts of land 3,800 feet long to Union County for only \$1 each. The new trolley line was completed in late 1899 and formally opened on April 26, 1900. The trolley paralleled the tracks of the Central Railroad from Elizabeth to Plainfield, a distance of 12 miles. The fare between the two cities was 20 cents or 35 cents for a roundtrip, half the price charged by the Central Railroad. Riding the open air trolley cars on a Sunday afternoon was popular with young courting couples.

The electrical power for these cars was provided by large generators and supplied to the cars by overhead wires along the route. A long, spring-loaded trolley pole at the rear of the car made contact with the wire by means of a small roller at its top, feeding electricity to the motors of the vehicle. A similar pole at the other end of the car could be used to allow it to run in the opposite direction without having to be turned around. As the trolley pole could be raised or lowered by a rope dangling from it, daring youths would sometimes disconnect the pole, much to the annoyance of the motorman who drove the car.

The trolleys presented hazards to pedestrians, horse drawn carriages, and later automobiles. In 1902, a trolley in Plainfield ran over and killed 15 year old Albert Weeks, who darted in front of the car on his bicycle. The trolleys were replaced by the end of the 1920s with buses.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



New Homes in Elmora 1913 and Today

The two homes in the top photo of 1913 were among the first built in the area of Edgewood and Summit Roads. The Tudor style home on the left remains today unchanged except for the enclosure of the front porch. The colonial style home on the right has an added room or two in the front, replacing the porch. But the original clapboard and shutters are gone, resulting in a dull looking vinyl sided home today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Hillside Road Early 1900s

The Hillside Road area of El Morra is pictured in this early 1900s postcard, just before construction of new homes. The area was heavily wooded with large oak trees. The developer preserved some of the trees as seen in the bottom photo, dated 1911, of one of the new homes. The architectural style is Dutch Colonial. The location of this home was not indicated but it is likely in the El Morra Hills area. This home probably remains today as this area of El Morra did not succumb to the apartment building craze seen on Westfield Ave., Stiles St., West Grand St., and West Jersey St. in the 1950s-1960s. During this period much of Elizabeth's 19th century Victorian architectural legacy was wiped out.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elmora Homes 1919 and Today

New home construction was at a record pace in suburban Elmora during the 1910-1920 decade. The July 1919 issue of Good Housekeeping showcased some of these fine homes built on heavily treed lots, shown in the top photos. The home at top left fronts on Park Ave. near Hillside Road. Another home has been built alongside, so today's view at bottom left is the front of the home. The remaining three homes are on Hillside Road between Colonial Road and Baldwin Place. The second home from the left, a colonial, was occupied by the Bonner family; Edward Bonner was funeral director of the Higgins and Bonner Funeral Home on Westminster Ave. The Tudor home third from the left was the O'Brien household. Raymond O'Brien was a senior partner in the law firm O'Brien, Liotta & Mandel, now in Union on Morris Ave. The colonial home on the right, at the corner of Hillside Road and Baldwin Place, was once owned by the Mistichelli family.

I thank Patrick Gallagher and Joan Anthes Jankunas for identifying the location and former residents of these homes.



Colonial Home on Park Ave.

This beautiful home at 800 Park Ave. was built in 1905 when development of Elmora was just starting. The two-story home is a classic center hall colonial with a front porch and solarium on the side. Yet it has a few touches from the earlier Victorian styles in the city, namely carved wooden brackets under the roof and eaves.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The 1920 Census indicates Charles C. Wiegand, 45, was living there with his daughter Harriet, 18, and his mother Emma, 71. He was president of the Elizabeth Sash Door & Supply Co. located on Seventh St.



Craftsman Style Home on Springfield Road ca. 1965. Photo Courtesy of Ruth Madorma Spies.

Located at 144 Springfield Road, this Craftsman style home was popular in the 1900-1939 period. There are only a few examples of the style in Elizabeth. The second floor cutout has windows under the twin dormers which are supported by knee braces. Note the very wide eaves, typical of the Craftsman style. The fieldstone front porch is quite distinctive, with natural materials also pointing to the Craftsman style. Today the home looks remodeled, unfortunately destroying the Craftsman architecture. The new owners may not have realized the architectural significance of the original style.

Another Craftsman home is at 641 Wyoming Ave.



Craftsman Home at 641 Wyoming Ave. Built ca. 1910

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Wyoming Ave. ca. 1909

Wyoming Ave. runs from Elmora Ave. to Summit Road. Development began in the 1890s, when Victorian styles were starting to disappear, replaced by colonial and other styles of architecture. The 1919 City Directory listed 11 homes on Wyoming Ave. and most of them had telephones.

Note the immense trees lining both sides of the street. Many of Elizabeth's curbside trees were later destroyed by Dutch elm disease.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



The Woodland

\$2,494.00 No. 2007 "Already Cut" and Fitted.
2,598.00 No. 3025 "Already Cut" and Fitted.

FLOOR PLAN
No. 3025.
Price, \$2,598.00

SECOND FLOOR PLAN No. 3025.

See Description of "Honor Bilt" Houses on Page 7.
 This house can be built with the rooms reversed. See page 3.

At the prices quoted we will furnish all the material to build this house with eight or nine rooms. Prices do not include cement, brick or plaster.

First Floor The front door, 1 3/4 inches thick, glazed with bevel plate glass, opens into the reception hall, which has an attractive stairway leading to the second floor. The cased opening between the living room and reception hall practically makes one large room of these two rooms.

Second Floor The stairway from the first floor leads to a hall on the second floor from which any one of the bedrooms can be reached. These bedrooms have splendid ventilation, there being windows on two sides of the front rooms.

No. 2007 plan has four bedrooms and balcony, No. 3025 has five bedrooms.

Height of Ceilings Basement, 7 feet from floor to joists. First floor, 9 feet from floor to ceiling. Second floor, 8 feet 2 inches from floor to ceiling.

We furnish our best "Quality Guaranteed" mill work, shown on pages 124 and 125. Interior doors are five-cross panel, with trim and flooring to match, all yellow pine, in beautiful grain and color. Windows are made of clear California white pine, with good quality glass set in with best grade of putty.

Paint for three coats outside, your choice of color. Varnish and wood filler for interior finish. Chicago Design hardware, see page 126.

Built on a brick foundation and excavated basement under entire house. We furnish clear cypress siding and best grade of thick cedar shingles; framing timber of No. 1 quality yellow pine. Basement has concrete floor.

OPTIONS FOR Nos. 2007 AND 3025

Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath, \$192.00 extra for No. 2007 and \$222.00 extra for No. 3025. See page 120.

Oriental Asphalt Shingles, instead of wood shingles, \$34.00 extra.

Fire-Chief Shingle Roll Roofing, Red or Sea Green in color, instead of wood shingles, \$15.00 less for No. 2007 and \$10.00 less for No. 3025.

Oak Doors, Trim and Floors for reception hall, living room, dining room and stairs, instead of yellow pine, \$167.00 extra.

Maple Floors furnished for kitchen, pantry and bathroom, instead of yellow pine, no extra charge.

Wood Floor material for porch and steps, \$74.30 extra.

Storm Doors and Windows, galvanized wire, \$59.00 extra.

This house can be built on a lot 32 feet wide.

For prices of Plumbing, Heating, Wiring, Electric Fixtures and Shades see page 121.

Our Guarantee Protects You—Order Your House From This Book

Prices Include Plans and Specifications.

FLOOR PLAN
No. 2007.
Price, \$2,494.00

SECOND FLOOR PLAN No. 2007.

"Woodland" Style Home in 1916 Sears Catalog

Ordering a home from the Sears mail order catalog was possible from 1908 to 1940. More than 70,000 of these moderately priced Sears homes were sold, primarily to East Coast and Midwest states. The ready to build kits were shipped by rail car and then trucked to the owner's lot. Elizabeth had a building boom after WW I so there may be some Sears homes here, likely in the Elmora section.

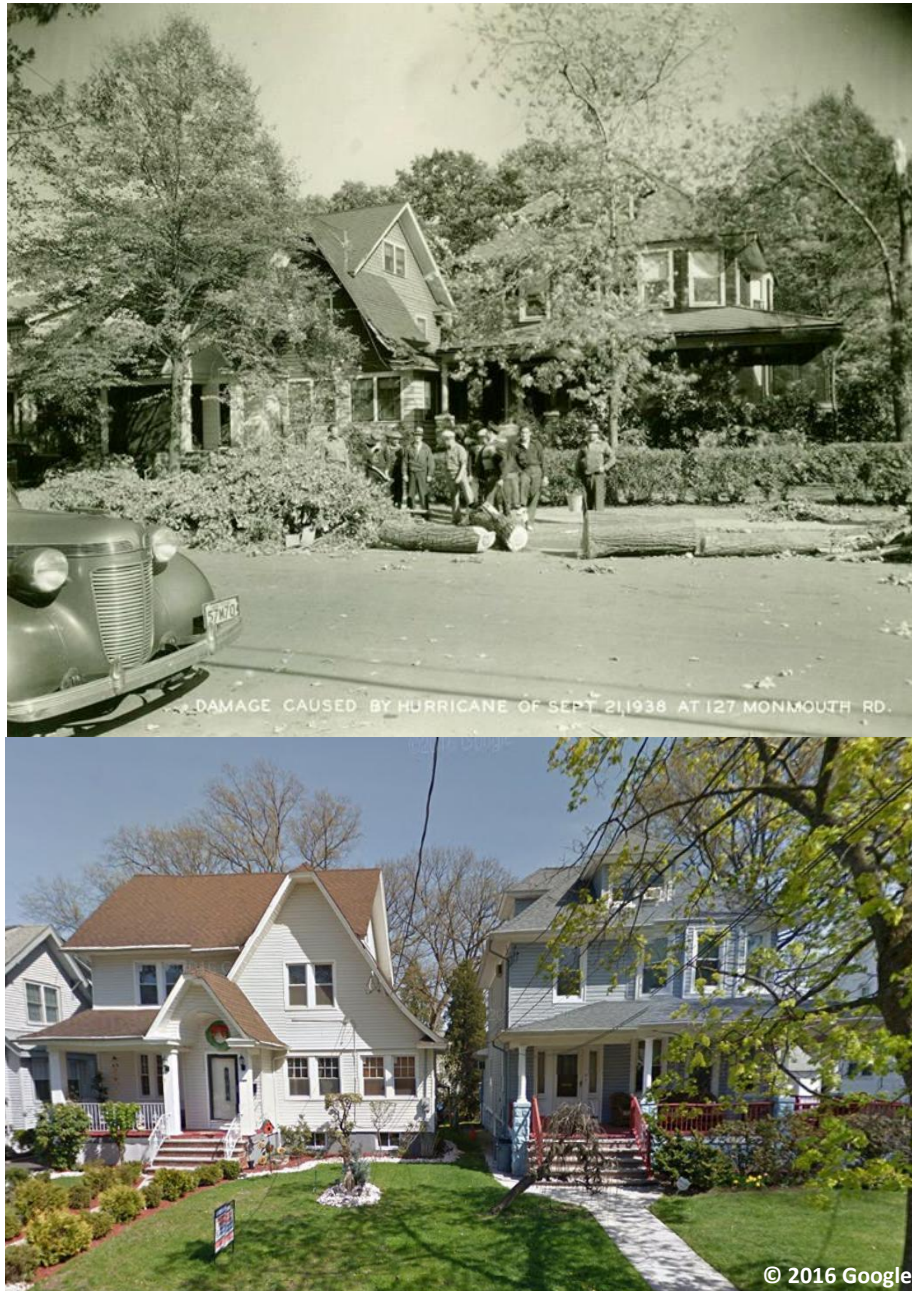
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Genevieve Convent on Princeton Road. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The El Mora Land Company sold lots along Princeton Road in the early 1920s for home construction. The convent at 212 Princeton Road was built by the nearby St. Genevieve Church in 1931. The colonial design fit in well with the neighborhood homes. Today the convent is no longer a residence for nuns, but CYO and Boy Scout meetings are held there.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Damage from 1938 Hurricane on Monmouth Road

The top photo shows the damage to the home at 127 Monmouth Road caused by the New England Hurricane of 1938. It made landfall on Long Island on September 21, 1938 causing a death toll estimated in the 600-800 range. The view today shows these homes are well maintained.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



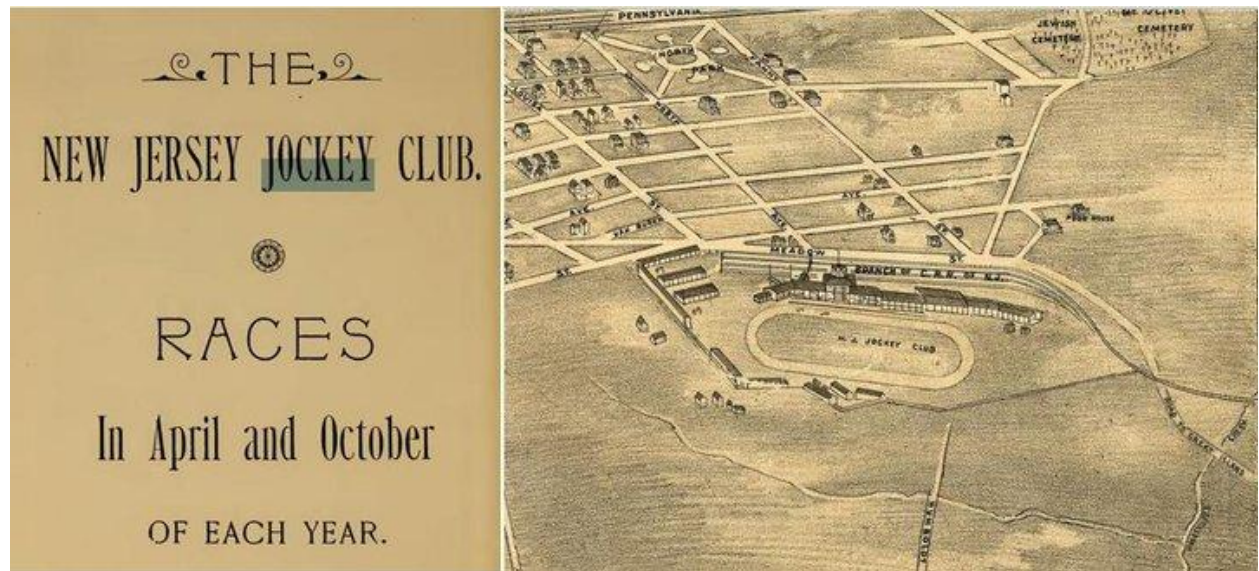
Colonial Style Home on Elmora Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

This beautiful two-story colonial with a tile roof was at 360 Elmora Ave at the corner of Wyoming Ave. It was probably built around 1920 and was one of the few stucco homes in Elmora.

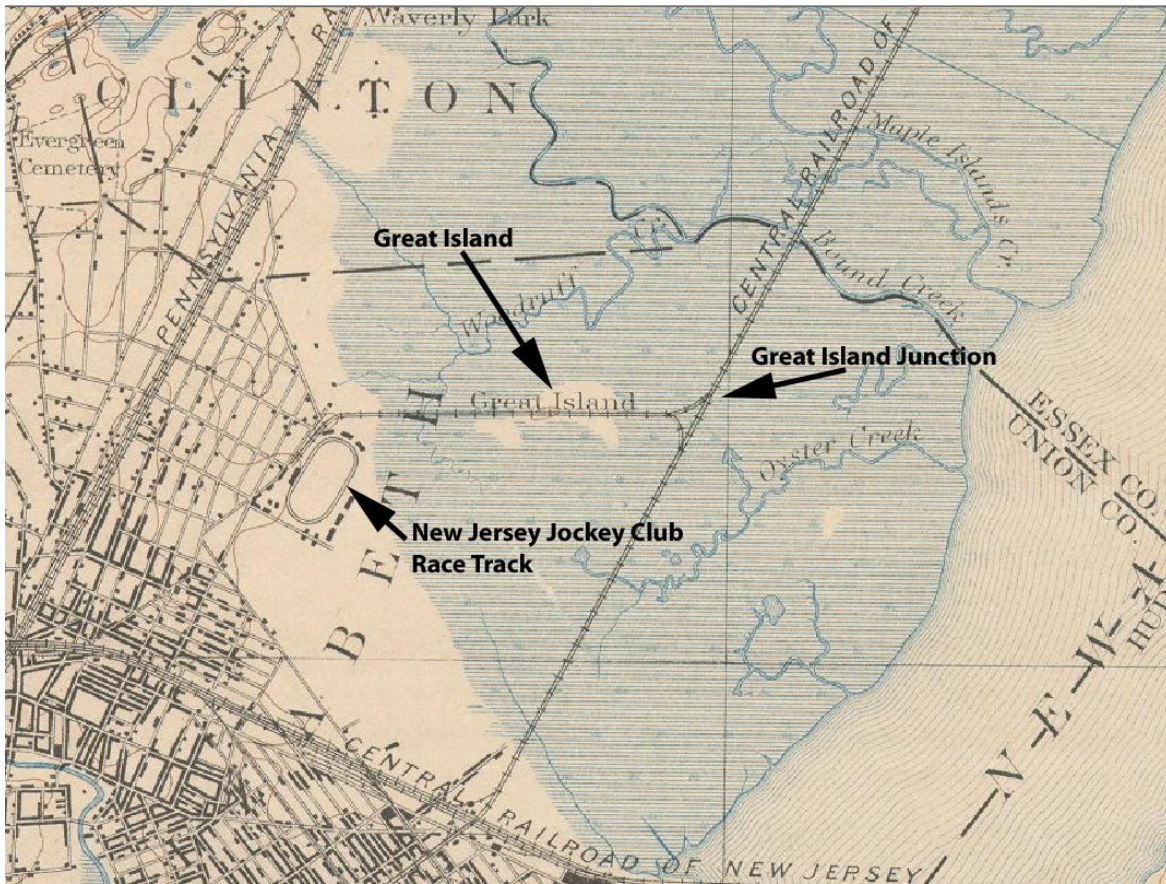
Arnold Samuelsen: "Sidney Albert Howell (1880-1955), a metallurgical engineer, lived at 360 Elmora Ave. in 1920 and for a few years thereafter. In 1940 he lived at 50 Princeton Road. He died Feb. 17, 1955 at his home in Red Bank. According to his obituary in the New York Times, he had owned the Howell Steel Co. of Elizabeth for 14 years and later was advisory engineer to the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia. Earlier in his career, he had worked for Singer's, according to city directory listings 1897-1903. He was born in England.

Another former owner of 360 Elmora Ave. was Samuel Koestler (1871-1960), an attorney who served as president of the Union County Bar Association and the Elizabeth Board of Education. He lived there from about 1930 into the 1940's, when he moved to Millburn. He and son Melvin practiced as Kosteler and Koestler with offices in the Hersh Tower, 125 Broad St. Samuel Koestler grew up at 136 First Street where his father Morris had a store selling stationery, confections and newspapers."

The home was recently demolished to make way for a commercial or apartment building.



Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

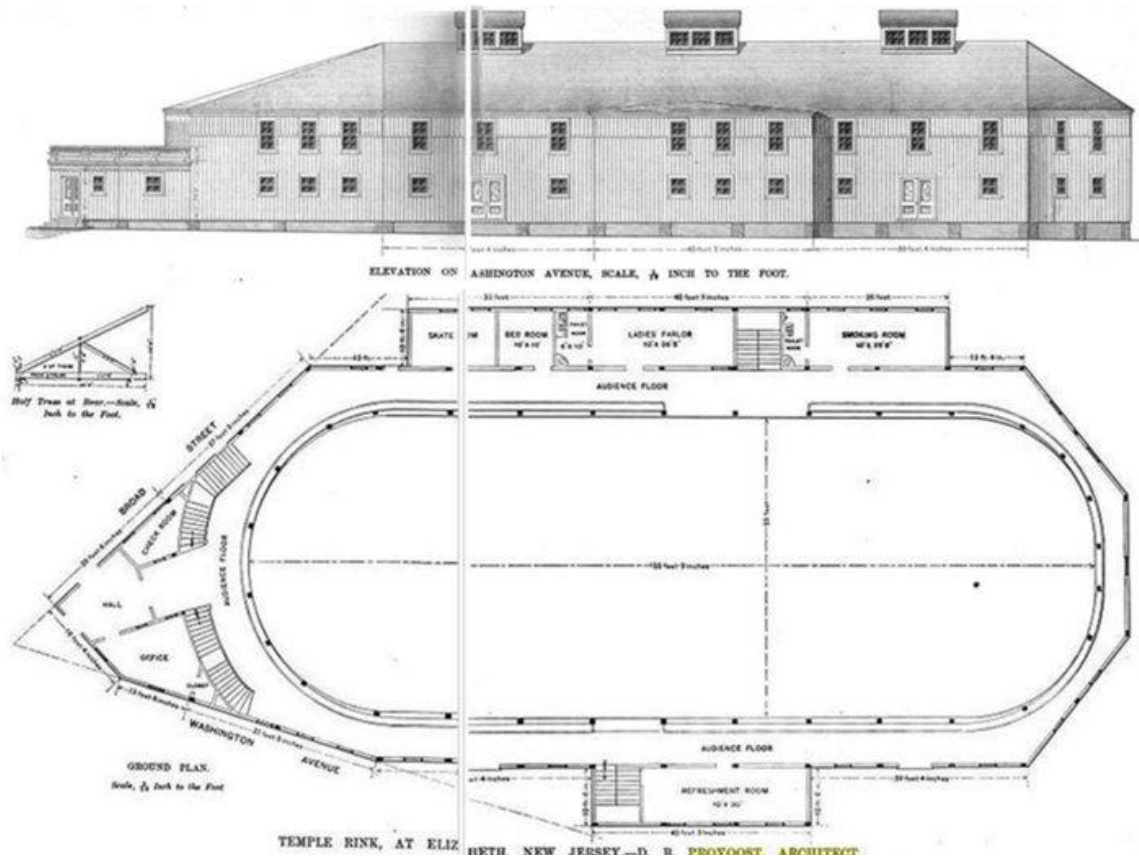


Great Island

Great Island was a geographical feature in the meadows between Elizabethport and Newark. It was a mosquito infested place that only bird watchers visited. But the Newark Branch of the Central Railroad ran through it and there was a station called Great Island Junction where the traveler could connect to the Elizabeth Extension Railroad, a short line of about a mile that led to the New Jersey Jockey Club race track.

Today the Great Island is the site of the southeast portion of Newark Airport, where the NJ Turnpike crosses into Essex County.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Temple Rink 1885

The first roller skating rink was not the Twin City Arena in north Elizabeth but the Temple Rink, built in 1884. It was located on the now extinct northeast leg of Washington Ave. and its intersection with South Broad St. near the Elizabeth River.

The building was designed by Elizabeth architect David B. Provoost and had gallery seating for 700 people. The structure was entirely of wood, so for emergency exits there were four 6-ft wide doorways and one 3-ft wide doorway. A detached boiler house provided heating. The rink cost \$13,000 back then, equivalent to \$306,000 today. It later became the Temple Opera House.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Clara Morris, Actress

Noted actress Clara Morris starred as Cora in the play "Article 47", one of the last performances at the Temple Opera House before it was destroyed by fire on April 2, 1893. Fortunately the theater was empty that night. The Temple Opera House, at the corner of Washington Ave. and South Broad St., was originally the Temple Rink, a skating rink built in 1884.

The huge wooden building, 1.5 stories in height, with dimensions 80 by 200 feet, was converted into a first class theater around 1886. It was regarded as one of the best equipped theaters with the largest stage in New Jersey. The theater was also used for political rallies and was the site of the graduation ceremony of Battin High School on June 27, 1892. That year there were 26 graduates-8 boys and 18 girls.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Scott Park on East Jersey St. View from Madison Ave. 1910

Scott Park was once a low, marshy area of Elizabethtown known as Horse Hollow. A stream flowed through the area but was drained when a sewer line was installed years later. The land was originally much higher on the west side but was regraded to level the area.

The cannons at the north end of the park were acquired from the United States Government at the request of residents of Scott Park and vicinity. The City obtained two twelve-pound cast iron siege and garrison guns, model 1839, and placed them on ornamental mounts in 1905. The cannons date to the Mexican War, appropriate for the location where they were placed, opposite the General Winfield Scott house.



Scott Park Today View from Elizabeth Ave. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Loew's Theater on Broad St. ca. 1910

Loew's theater was located at 19-23 Broad St., across from the First Presbyterian Church. The theater was originally known as Library Hall, which opened in 1858 with 1250 seats. It was renamed the Lyceum in 1894. The opera *Carmen* was staged at the Lyceum in 1896 by the Rosabel Morrison company.

In 1899 the population of Elizabeth was 56,000. Ticket prices were 25 cents to \$1. The theater was illuminated with gas and electricity.

In August 1899 at 3 PM, a tornado tore through the business district, toppling the spire of the First Presbyterian Church and blowing the roof off the Lyceum. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was staged there in 1902 and Fanny Brice starred there in *"A Millionaire's Revenge"* in 1906.

Vaudeville acts were popular in Elizabeth in the early 1900s, giving residents the opportunity to enjoy first-class entertainment without having to travel to New York. Vaudeville troupes consisted of acrobats, dancers, singers, comedians and animal acts. Gordon's Hippodrome, built in 1913 on Elizabeth Ave., hosted many vaudeville acts and plays. It later became known as the Liberty Theater. The Lyric Theater, 535 East Jersey St., (now an auto garage) and the Lyceum Theater also had vaudeville entertainment. The biggest vaudeville acts played at the Proctor Theater on East Jersey St, later known as the Ritz. Ethel Merman, part of the Keith Vaudeville Circuit, performed at the Proctor Theater in 1930. The Proctor Theater was one of a chain of 16 theaters in the New York area.

The advent of sound in motion pictures dealt a fatal blow to vaudeville. Vaudeville acts disappeared as theaters converted to the more profitable showing of motion pictures.

The Loew's theater building was eventually replaced with a commercial building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



New Capitol Theatre, Elizabeth, N. J.
Showing the crowd during the opening
week of H. F. Jans' house for "His
Majesty the American."



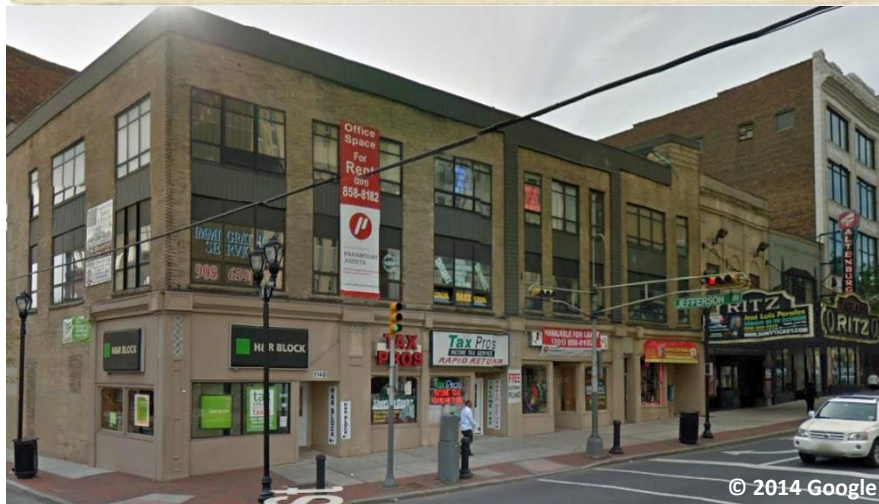
Capitol Theatre on Broad St.

In the 1950s, the New theater on Broad St. was a somewhat rundown place showing lower ranked movies. The building at 53 Broad St. dates to at least 1914 when it was known as the Garden Theatre. By 1919 the name has changed to the Capitol Theatre. This vintage photo shows patrons lined up for the opening of the silent film "His Majesty the American", starring Douglas Fairbanks. Boris Karloff had a bit part.

The Capitol had 583 seats and a Wurlitzer organ. It operated until about 1935. The New theater took over in 1941. The seating capacity in 1950 was 700. The New lasted until about 1960 and was succeeded by the Fine Arts theater.

The building remains today, remodeled for use as a small department store.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Jacob's Theater on East Jersey St. Became Ritz Theater

Jacob's theater, at the corner of Jefferson Ave. and East Jersey St., was originally the Drake Opera House which opened in 1894. Other names followed, including People's, Star, and Proctor's Bijou Dream theater. The theater presented vaudeville, burlesque and plays such as "The Countess Chiffon" in 1900 and "The Eternal City" in 1903.

Jacob Fabian was a theater entrepreneur who owned many theaters in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. The theater in Elizabeth became known as Jacob Fabian's Ritz in 1926. The facade of the building changed over time and at some point the marquee was shifted further west to its present location.

The Ritz no longer shows movies but opens for special performances and concerts.

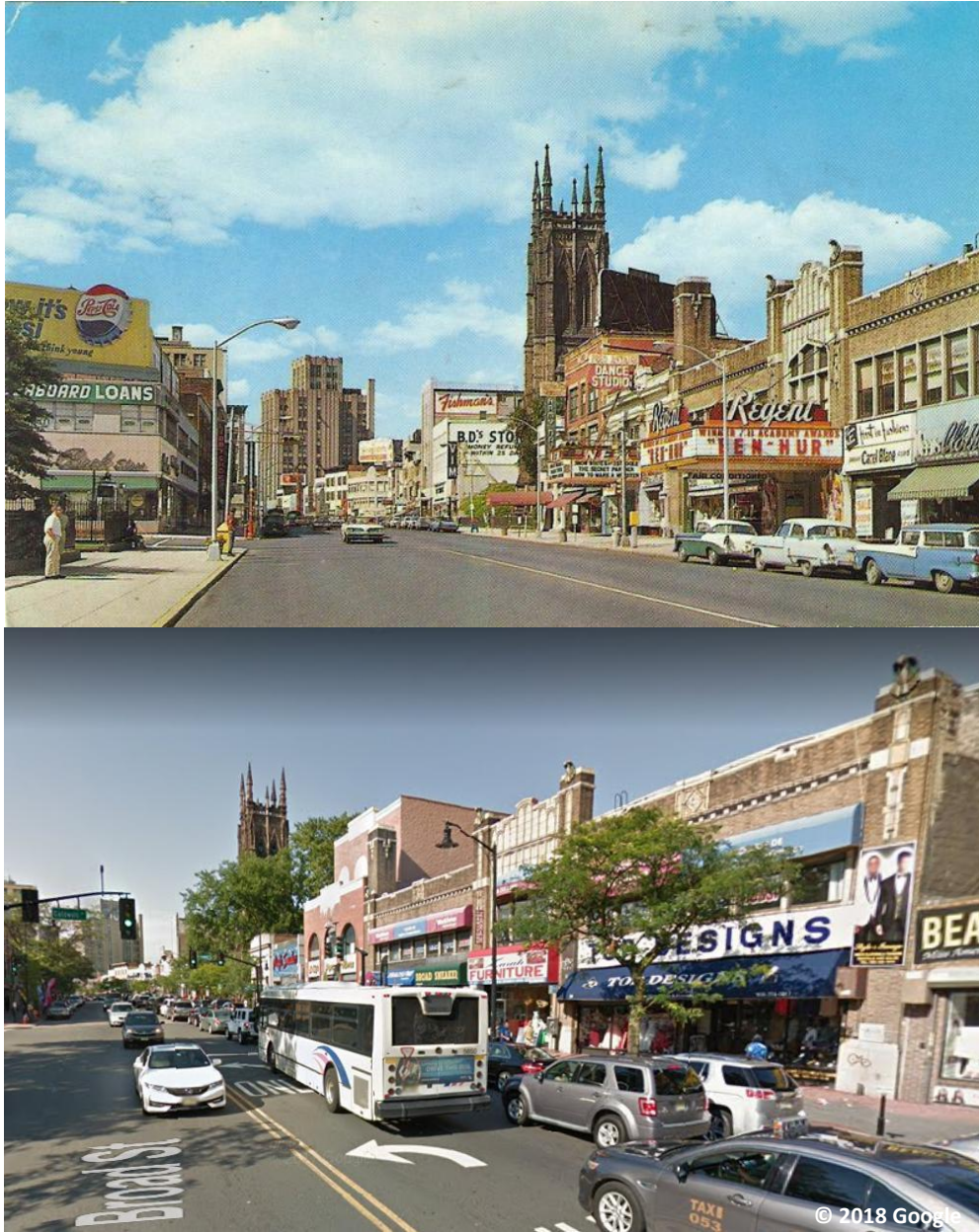
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Broad St. View South from East Jersey St. December 1940

Shopping the fine stores along Broad St. was a popular family activity, with stores open late on Thursday nights. Broad St. is lit up for the Christmas season in this photo of 1940. On the left is the Bud Robert's Men's Shop, Mac Khin's Gifts and the Thom McAn shoe store. On the right is Kitty Kelly, Levy Bros. department store, and Manning's Army & Navy. Further down the street is the historic First Presbyterian Church with an illuminated clock in the steeple.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Regent Theater on Broad St.

This 1960 postcard is a view of Broad St. looking north. St. John's Church and the Hersch Building are in the background. Ben-Hur was playing at the Regent theater and I remember seeing it there. The Regent had 2481 seats. A Griffith-Beach organ was installed in 1923. The gargoyle decorated building remains today, converted entirely to stores. The New theater, next door to the Regent, has also disappeared.

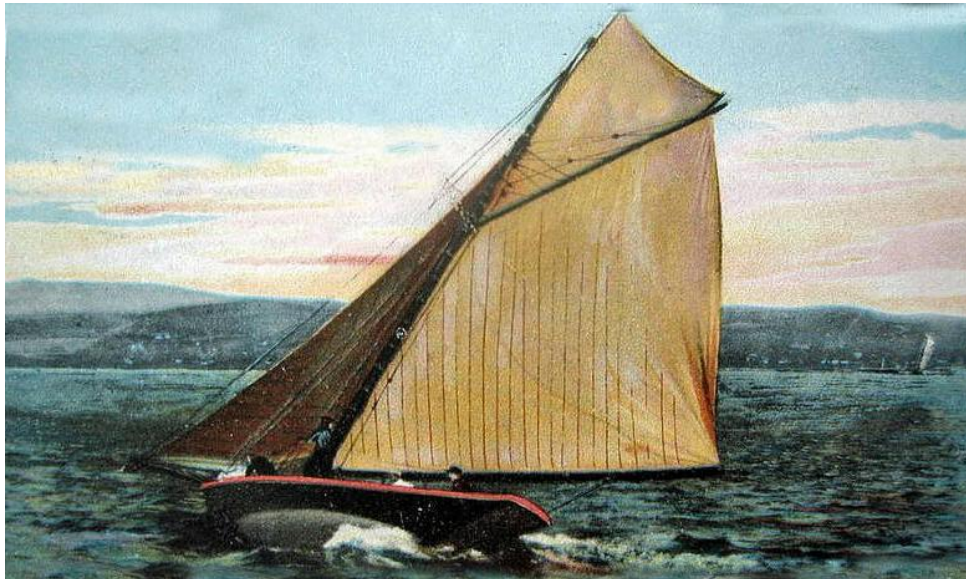
The Regent site at 39 Broad St. was once the office of Shepard Kollock, who printed one of New Jersey's first newspapers, the New Jersey Journal, later published as the Elizabeth Daily Journal. Kollock was born in Delaware in 1751 and learned the printing business from his uncle, William Goddard, editor of the Pennsylvania Chronicle. He resigned from the Continental Army for the more vital task of combating the Tory press of New York City. Kollock printed his first issues in 1779 in Chatham, NJ. In 1785 he moved to Elizabeth where he built a combined home, printing office, and bookstore. When he died in 1839 he was buried across the street in the First Presbyterian Church cemetery.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Lyric Theater on East Jersey St.

The 1919 City Directory lists the Lyric movie theater at 535 East Jersey St. It was one of ten movie theaters in operation at the time. Today the one-story concrete block building is used as a auto garage.



Sailing off Elizabethport ca. 1900

Recreational boating in the waters off Elizabethport became popular in the late 19th century. Two rowing clubs were established in 1878. The Arthur Kull Rowing Association had a boathouse at the foot of East Jersey St. The Alcyone Boat Club built an elaborate three-story boathouse, with balconies facing the water, at the foot of Livingston St. The Van Pelt family, who operated a tugboat service for many years on the waterfront, rented small sail and rowing boats.

Annual regatta races were held for many years on the Arthur Kill and Staten Island Sound. The course was a mile in length with races of different categories of rowing sculls and crew size. Women rowers raced in a shorter course

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

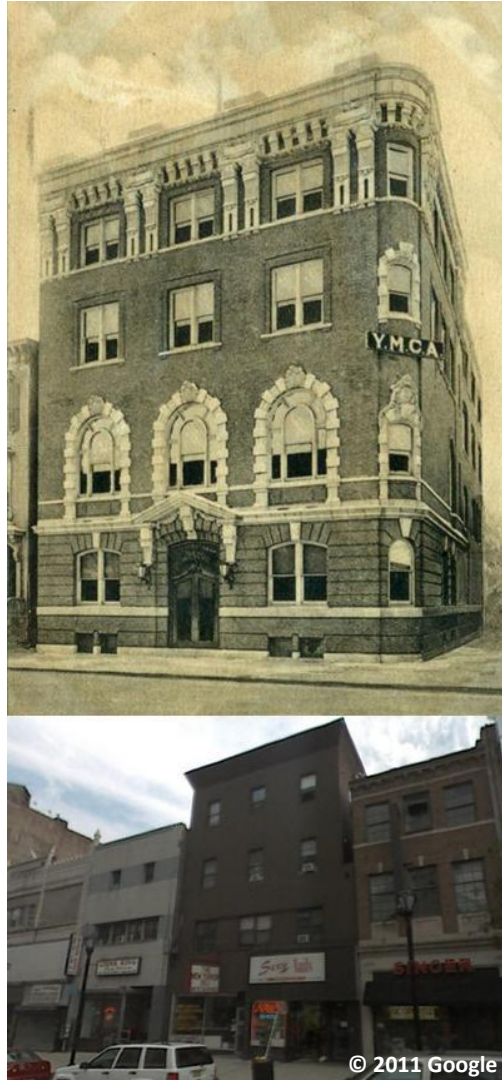
of a half-mile. The races took place in the July-September months and were witnessed by thousands of spectators along the waterfront.

Interest in the sport declined by the early 1900s, perhaps due to the hazards of increased maritime traffic and pollution. The revitalization of the waterfront is evident in today's view:



Waterfront Park Today. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

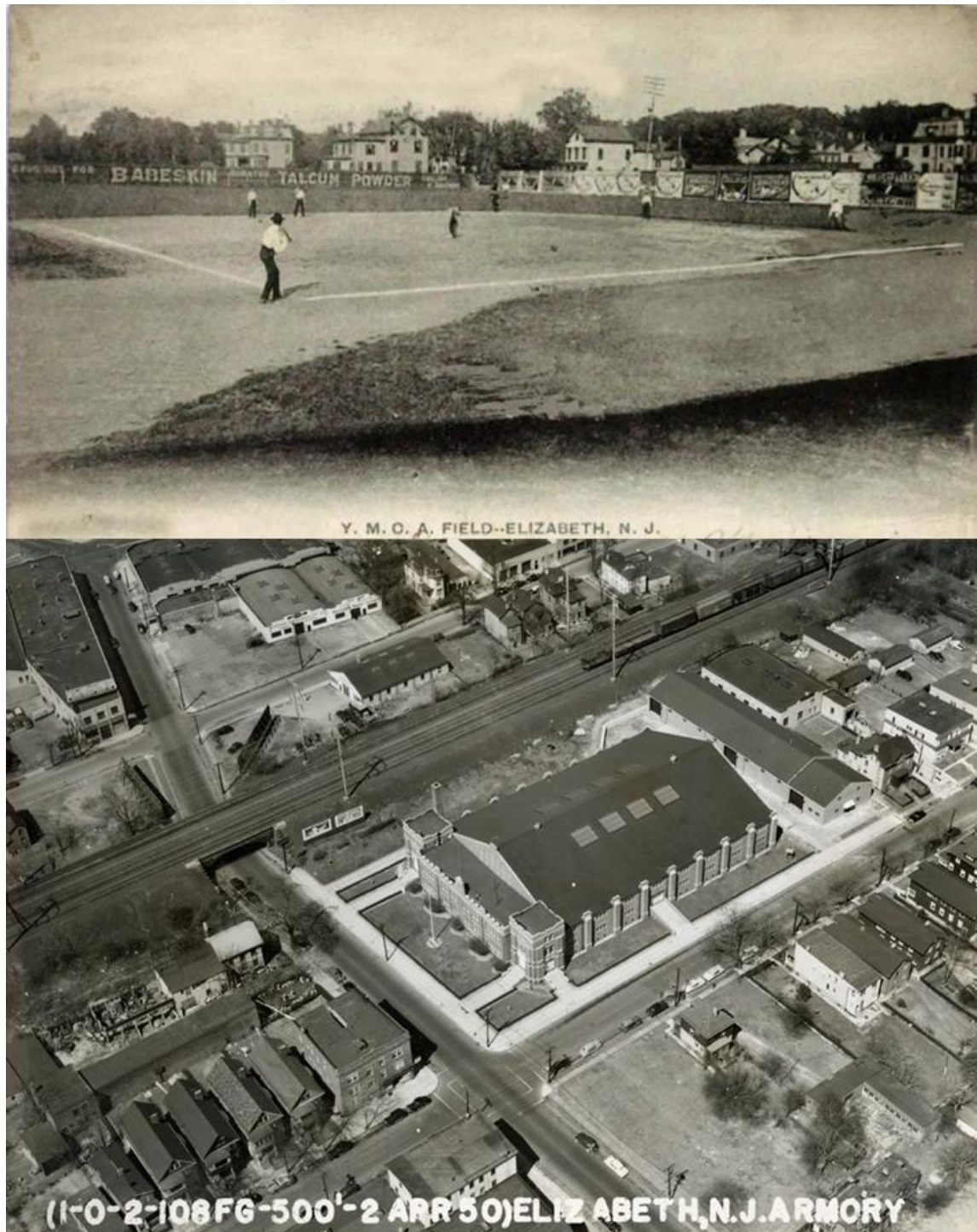


Original YMCA on East Jersey St.

The original YMCA building was located at 1164 East Jersey St., slightly west of the Ritz theater. The four-story stone and brick building, with ornamental facade, windows and entrance, was erected in 1906. It had a gymnasium, bowling alleys, running track, swimming pool, an auditorium that seated 300 people, nine classrooms for adult school, fifteen residents' rooms, offices, meeting rooms and parlors. Religious services were held on Sunday evening. The building was considered one of the most modern and best equipped in the state.

As membership grew, a new YMCA, triple in size, was constructed in 1929 at 135 Madison Ave. which still operates today. The original building was either remodeled or replaced by the brown building in the center of today's view.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Armory on Magnolia Ave. 1950

This 1907 postcard shows a baseball game underway at the YMCA field in Elizabeth. Arnold Samuelsen said: "In one of Val Fallon's "Old Time Elizabeth" columns from the 1960's he mentions that the old YMCA field was on the site of the present armory [Magnolia Ave. and Walnut St.] and that many fans watched from the Pennsylvania Railroad embankment. The YMCA building at that time was on Broad St. near East Jersey, he wrote."

The armory, erected in 1912, is shown in the bottom aerial photo of 1950.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Baseball Team 1906

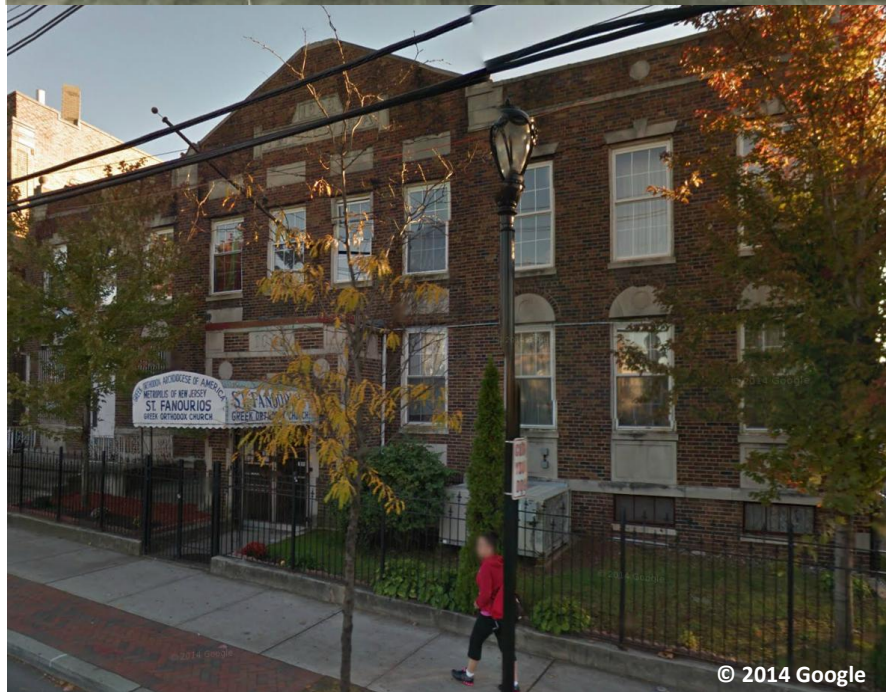
This is how a young boys' Elizabeth baseball team looked in 1906. Note the shirt collars and baggy pants not found on today's uniforms. The letters "L S" may have represented the business that sponsored the team.



Model Plane Flying Contest 1912

A model plane flying contest, sponsored by the YMCA, made the front page of the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1912. The event was held at Hitchings Field, which was off Spring St. near North Ave. The winning plane traveled an impressive 2,375 feet. Power to the propellers was supplied by rubber bands.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



YM-YWHA on East Jersey St.

The Young Women's Hebrew Association winners of interclub dodge ball pose for this 1927 photo. The Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association (YM-YWHA) building was located at 1034 East Jersey St. at the corner of Catherine St. One of the founders was Samuel Koestler, who practiced law in Elizabeth starting in 1901. The late Dr. David P. Lieberman, who was my pediatrician in the 1940s, was a past president of the organization.

Today the building is occupied by the St. Fanourios Greek Orthodox Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Kellogg Park 1889 and Today's View from North Ave.

Kellogg Park is an 11 acre square bounded by Madison and North Avenues and Fanny and Walnut Streets. In 1835 Edward N. Kellogg purchased the 300 acre Woodruff Farm. In the 1850s he laid out streets, building lots and parks. He named the main streets after U.S. presidents and the cross streets for his sisters and other female relatives. Many of the lots were 25 by 100 feet to accommodate modest homes for workers in the Elizabethport industries.

The park was first known as North Park, shown in the top photo of 1889. This photo may have been taken from North Ave. looking toward the large home on Madison Ave. on the right. Note the sapling trees that were planted on land that had been cleared for farming. Today's view of the park was also taken from North Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Jefferson Park on Jefferson Ave.

Two women enjoy a walk on the paths of Jefferson Park in this ca. 1900 postcard. The park, bounded by Jefferson and Madison Avenues and Mary and Anna Streets, was given to the city in 1858 by prominent real estate developer Edward N. Kellogg. It had many large oak trees and was originally a part of Pierson's Woods and quite swampy. Today's view is from the corner of Jefferson Ave. and Mary St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Wilson Park on Newark Ave.

Wilson Park is in North Elizabeth, bounded by Newark and Sherman Avenues, Alina and Virginia Streets. The land was conveyed to the city in 1870 by the Union and Essex Land Company and Joseph Cross. Joseph Cross (1843-1913) practiced law in Elizabeth from 1869 to 1905. He was a judge on the United States District Court for New Jersey from 1905 until his death.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The park was unimproved bare land for many years. A WPA project in 1937 (top photo) added a new lawn, many sapling trees and walkways. Today's view shows many mature trees in the park and saplings planted along the curb. The park is a welcome green space along one of Elizabeth's busiest streets.

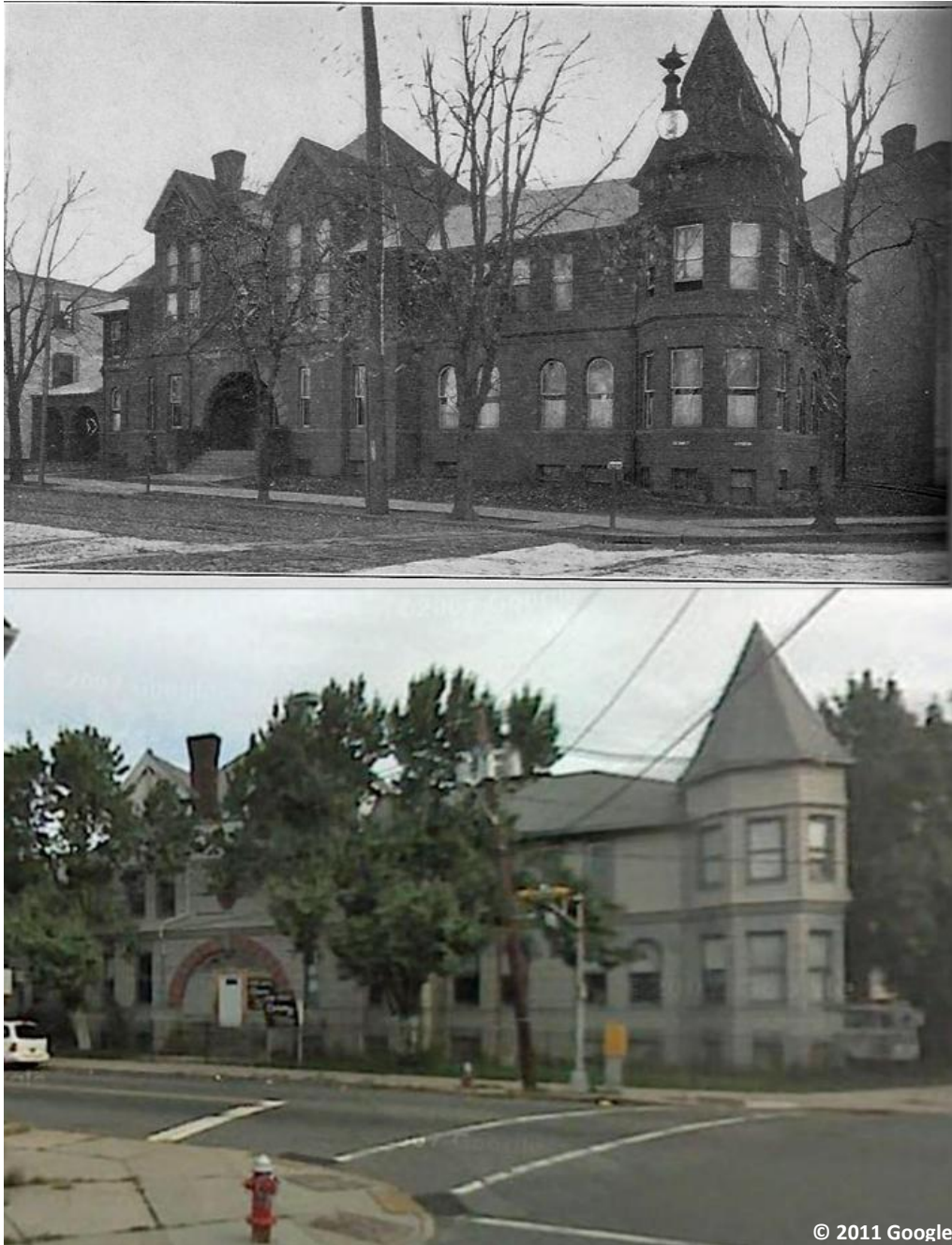


YMCLA Building on Rahway Ave.

The Young Men's Catholic Library Association (YMCLA) was a nationwide organization for the literary improvement of its members. The Elizabeth chapter was established around 1887 when lots were purchased on Rahway Ave., opposite Union St. (now Elizabethtown Plaza), for the construction of a three-story building and clubhouse. This organization was the largest and most prosperous Catholic society for young men in the city. Most of the members were from St. Mary's Church. The building had a gymnasium and members participated in athletic events such as bicycle races in the metropolitan area. There was also a dramatic club.

The building was demolished years ago and the site today is occupied by the Andrew K. Ruotolo Justice Center.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Club on East Grand St.

The Elizabeth Club, located on East Grand St. at the corner of Jefferson Ave., is shown in this 1907 photo. The private social club held athletic events such as bicycle racing, which was very popular in the late 19th century. Franklin Brooks, an executive in the mica mining industry, was the president in the early 1900s. The Club eventually disbanded but this fine building survived until recently by conversion to commercial uses such as law offices.

Arnold Samuelsen: "This is at 1122 E. Grand St. and was once the home of Betsytown Post VFW. It has been replaced by a new three-story building for Proceed Inc."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Americus Club on South Park St.

The Americus Club was one of many fraternal organizations active in Elizabeth in the early 1900s. According to the 1919 City Directory, the club was located at 83 South Park St., seen on the left side of this photo. The president was William J. Dunn.

Nationwide, the organization was known as the Americus Association, dating to the 1890s or earlier. It looks like it was a political/social organization of Democrats. They marched in parades and held picnics and balls.



Saloon in Elizabeth ca. 1909

This vintage postcard photo taken in an Elizabeth saloon features a well-dressed man hoisting a beer. Note the ceiling gas light fixtures and the old-fashioned cash register behind the fancy wood bar. This may have been one of the city's more upscale saloons. The 1919 City Directory listed 215 saloons, many of which were in the Port and Bayway sections. Drinking at saloons was a highly popular pastime for men until Prohibition came in 1920.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Edward Clark Club on East Jersey St.

The Edward Clark Club was built in 1904 on the grounds of the Grace Episcopal Church, 221 East Jersey St. near Second St. The building was the gift to the church of Mrs. Henry C. Potter, the wife of an Episcopal bishop. She was the widow of Alfred Corning Clark, the son of Edward Clark, one of the founders of the Singer Sewing Machine Co. The architect of this distinctive building was F.E. Wallis of New York.

The club was a social institution similar to the YMCA. It had a chapel, restaurant, dining room, billiard rooms, swimming pool, running track, bowling alley, gymnasium and even a rooftop garden. Membership, costing \$6 per year, was open to all faiths. The club had many workers of Elizabethport industries among its members. The building later became the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, which has now merged with St. Patrick's Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Town and Country Club on North Broad St.

The Elizabeth Town and Country Club was an athletic and social club founded in 1896. A nine-hole golf course and clubhouse were built. Among the charter members were U.S. Senator John Kean (New Jersey) and George C. Thomas, founder of the Thomas & Betts Co. The original clubhouse (top photo of 1909) was built in the shingle style architecture popular in the late 19th century.

After a fire in 1925, the clubhouse was rebuilt in a colonial style (bottom photo). The golf course was later sold and the club focused on tennis, squash and swimming. It was the site for tennis tournaments such as the Eastern intercollegiate championships and the New Jersey State Open. Pancho Segura competed there.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The club was the scene of receptions for local dignitaries such as US Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell and US Senator Harrison Williams as well as many private social affairs and weddings. Among the members in the 1950s and 60s were New York Stock Exchange Chairman James C. Kellogg III and New York Knicks coach Eddie Donovan. In 1980 an outside banquet company began operating the clubhouse as "The Old Mansion" while members continued to enjoy the red clay tennis courts, swimming pool and squash courts. A frequent tennis guest in the 1990s was ex-Governor Brendan Byrne who was on the Board of the Elizabethtown Water Co.

In 2004, the property was sold to the City of Elizabeth Board of Education for construction of a new school, the Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School 29. The only trace of the golf course is 'Country Club Lane', a development of single family homes.



Elks Club on Westfield Ave.

The Elks Club was established in 1911 on Westfield Ave. when the nearby Williamson House on North Broad St. was relocated for the construction of the Post Office. The two-story Williamson House was set on a one-story foundation to provide a three-story building.

An auditorium was added in the rear of the building which became the forum for many well known speakers. On July 1, 1922, Vice-President Calvin Coolidge spoke at a dinner there (see photo below) to celebrate the liquidation of Elizabeth's debt which had burdened the city since the end of the Civil War. Coolidge became President in 1923 after the sudden death of Warren G. Harding.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Vice President Calvin Coolidge at Elks Club in 1922. Mayor Victor Mravlag, Holding Straw Hat, Stands Nearby.

The Elks Club auditorium had an organ similar to the one at Radio City Music Hall. There was a Saturday night dance club for young adults called the "Spark Club". Some of my single cousins went to these dances in the 1940s.

The Elks Club survived until the early 1970s when the building was razed to make parking space for the Post Office. The antique chandelier, once part of the Williamson House, was saved minutes before the demolition. Today it is on display at Rod's restaurant in the Madison Hotel in Morristown.



Dance Held in Elizabeth. Photo: City Hall Archive

Attending dances was a popular social activity for all age groups in the city. But dancing on Sundays was once banned in Elizabeth. This is an article published in a 1921 edition of Liberty, a religious freedom magazine: "Mayor Mravlag has ordered the police not to permit either private or public dances in Elizabeth, N. J., on Sunday, in

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

violation of the New Jersey blue laws. Some of the clergymen of Elizabeth brought complaints against the Sunday dancing, because a number of their church members indulged in this unseemly amusement, and absented themselves from divine service as a consequence. It seems strange that a mayor should undertake to enforce church discipline at the request of clergymen, and that clergymen should be so lax in their duties as to want to shift the matter of church discipline upon the mayor."

Mayor Mravlag's ban on dancing was eventually rescinded.



Former Location of North End Tennis Club on Pennsylvania Ave.

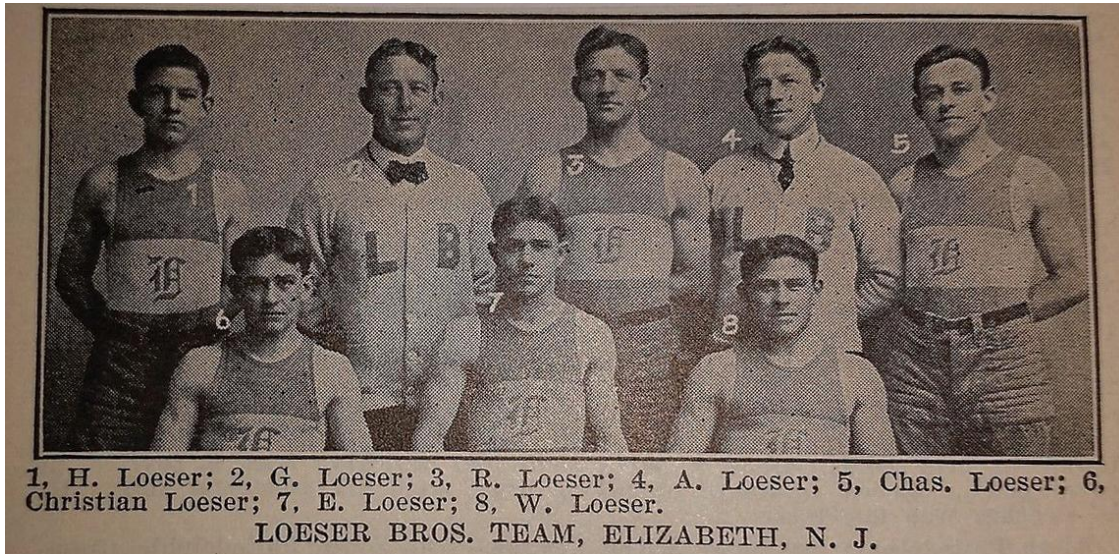
The North End Tennis Club was located at 544 Pennsylvania Ave., the site today of the Donald Stewart Early Education School 51. The club was started by African-Americans, perhaps in the 1920s-1930s period.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The North End Tennis Club had two courts. Arthur Carrington grew up there. He starred at Jefferson High 1962-65 and went on to win the American Tennis Association national championship. In a 2011 interview, he spoke about North End: "My mother had been a member as a teenager – the North End Tennis Club was right on the border of where the black neighborhood began and the white neighborhood ended. The story was that our two courts were part of the backyard of a mansion at one time, around 1900. The owner eventually sold the land to the blacks that would play on the courts, and that's how the club was started."

I believe the land for the two clay courts came from the rear lot of the home at 525 North Broad St. The 1903 Sanborn map shows this is the only lot running all the way to Pennsylvania Ave. The 1922 Sanborn map looks the same so perhaps the land for the courts was not yet conveyed to the North End Tennis Club.

The 1910 Census reports the home at 525 North Broad St. was occupied by Dr. Frank D. Smith, his wife Emily, daughter Louise, son Donald, father-in-law William Thompson, and live in servants Hannah Cronin and Bridget Lyons, both from Ireland. The 1919 City Directory indicates Dr. Smith was still living there. My guess is that Dr. Smith sold the land to the tennis club.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



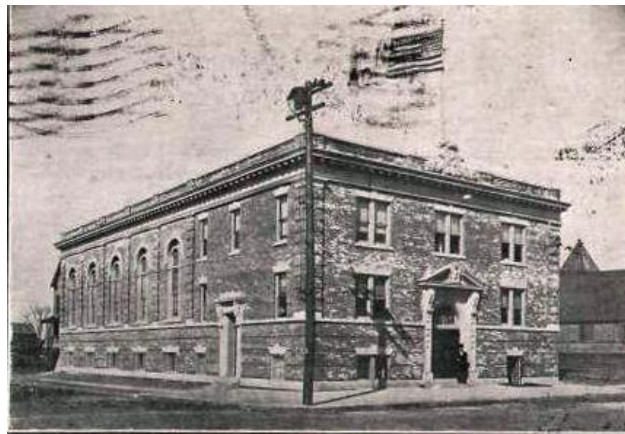
Immigrant families were large, but the Loeser family of Union St. had enough boys for their own basketball team, shown in this 1910 photo. The 1910 census listed the family as Martin Loeser, head, 61, wife Marie, 57, daughter Margaret, 33 and sons Charles, 29, Robert, 27, William, 24, Edwin, 21, Christian, 19 and Harry, 16. And they may have had other children no longer living at home. Martin Loeser came from Germany in 1869. This was a close knit family, as in the 1920s, six of the brothers purchased homes on Stiles St.



German American Shooting Club 1909

The German American Shooting Club (Schuetzen Corps) of Elizabeth was formed in 1884. The members in this 1909 photo were celebrating the 25th anniversary of the club. They may have had a shooting range in the meadows area of the city. Prominent members included Ernest Gommel, a printer and badge manufacturer with a business on East Jersey St., and Ewald Broeker who had a hotel, restaurant and saloon on Elizabeth Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



G. V. LIEDERKRANZ HALLE, Elizabeth, N. J.



**Top: G. V. Liederkrantz Halle on First Ave.
Bottom: United Singers Monument. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.**

Peterstown was originally a German community with the German Methodist Church built in 1854 on Centre St. near Third Ave. A new wave of German immigrants in the 1880s led to the construction of the G. V. Liederkrantz Halle on the corner of First Ave. and John St. The Liederkrantz Gesang Verein was a German singing society. In 1915 the Liederkrantz Singing Society joined with the Saenger Society Eintracht and the Elizabeth Maennerchor to form the United Singers of Elizabeth. They won the first prize in the National Saengerfest competition in Brooklyn

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

that year. The chorus consisted of 140 men led by conductor Carl Kapp. The winning song was "Das Volkslied" (The Folk Song) by Austrian composer Eduard Kremser. The United Singers brought home a bronze relief plaque, presented to the City of Elizabeth during a German festival held in June 1915. The plaque, shown in the bottom photo, paid tribute to Kremser with his portrait bust in the upper left corner alongside an allegorical figure of Victory holding a laurel wreath. The plaque was mounted on a granite base and placed in Scott Park. This peaceful activity took place in the midst of World War I, when anti-German sentiments arose in the city

The influx of Italian immigrants from 1890 to 1920 changed Peterstown into an Italian neighborhood. In 1903 the German Methodist Church was purchased and converted to a Catholic church to serve the growing number of parishioners. A new St. Anthony's Church was built in 1927 with the old church converted into a Sunday school and social hall.

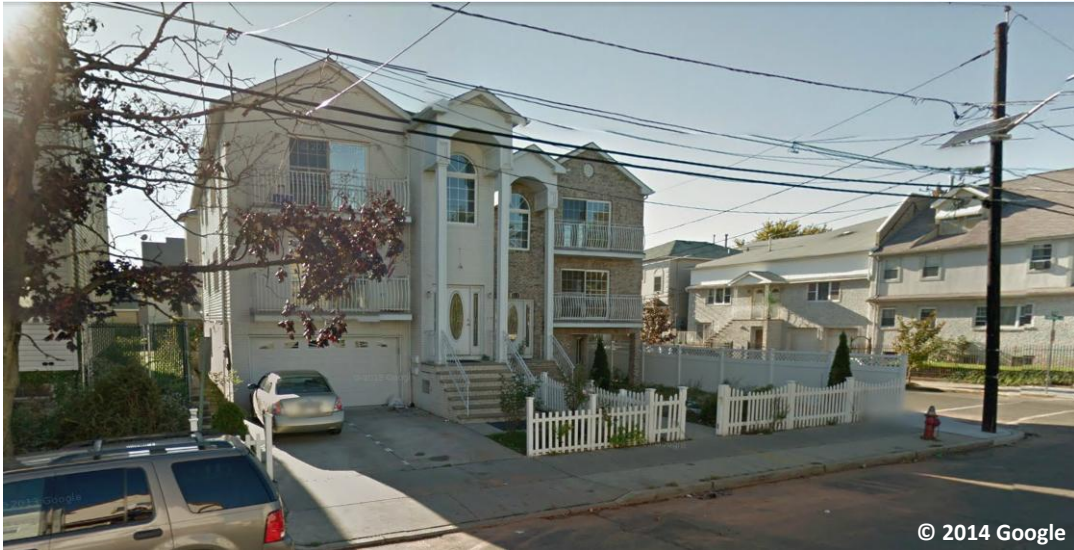
The City of Elizabeth eventually acquired the Liederkrantz Halle and it became known as the Midtown Community Center. Later it was renamed the James T. Kirk Center after the popular mayor who served 1939-1952. The small gym in the basement was a training center for boxers. The Kirk Center was idle for many years but was recently converted into a 25 unit apartment building housing the elderly. The distinctive architectural features of the original Liederkrantz Halle were preserved; the building is now called the James T. Kirk Gardens.



James T. Kirk Gardens on First Ave.

Today the population of Peterstown is primarily Latino. The St. Anthony School was merged with the Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary Schools to form Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy.

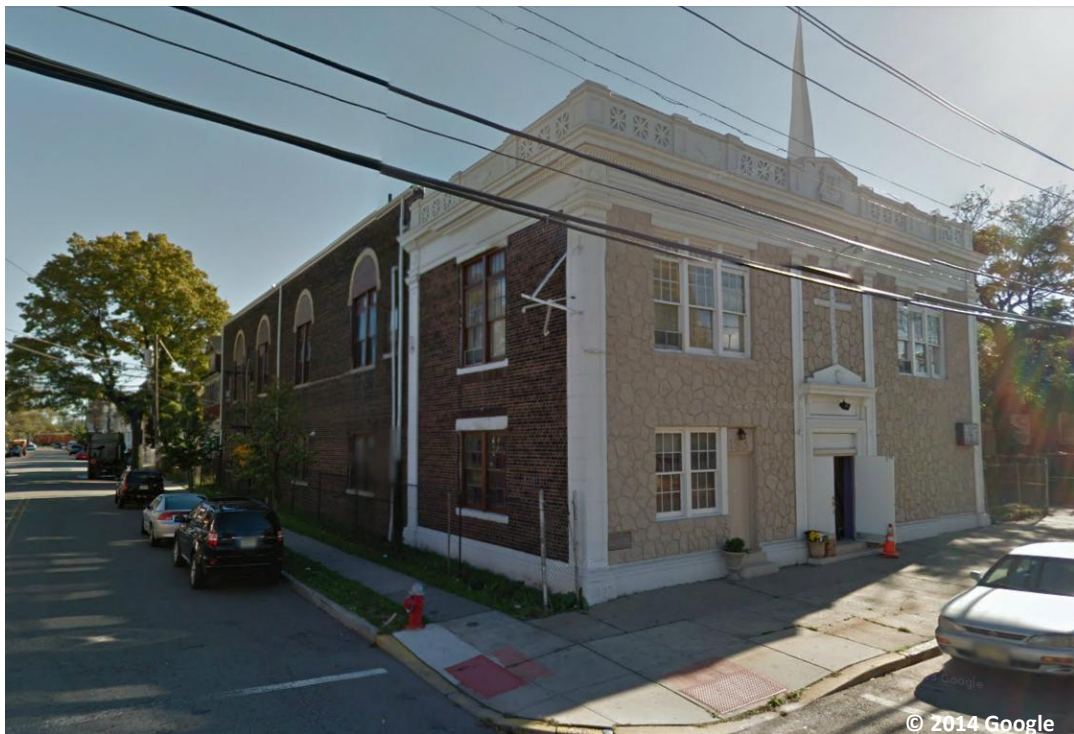
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Site of Hibernian Hall on First Ave.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish benevolent organization, was established in New York City in 1836. The 1919 City Directory listed the Elizabeth chapter at 1041 East Grand St. Later, the Hibernian Hall was established in a two-story building at 630 First Ave. at Christine St. The original occupant of this building was the Eintracht Singing Society.

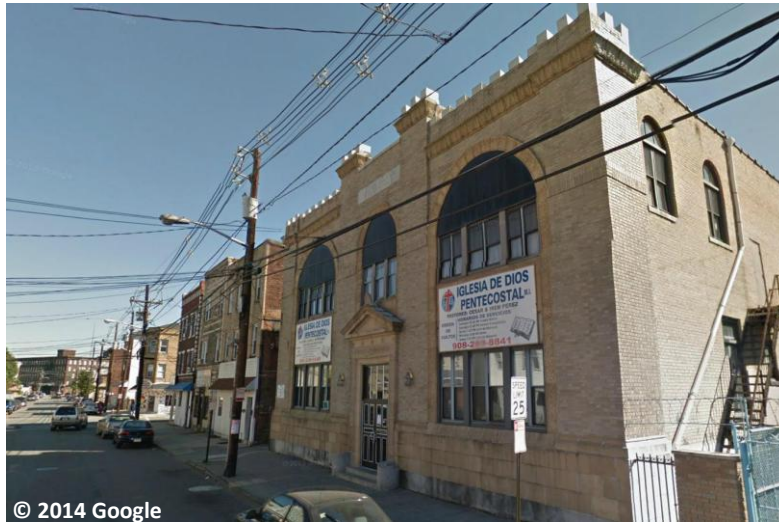
Today's view shows the Hibernian Hall has been replaced with two modern homes.



American Hungarian Social Club on Sixth St.

The American Hungarian Social Club was located in this building at 183 Sixth St. at Magnolia Ave. It was built in 1927. A bowling alley and bar were located in the rear. Today the building houses the St. John MER Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Lithuanian Liberty Hall on Second St.

I remember an influx of Lithuanian immigrants to Elizabeth in the mid-1950s. But the Lithuanian community began here much earlier as evidenced by The Lithuanian Liberty Hall constructed in the early 1920s. The castle like building was located at 269-273 Second St. between Inslee and Clark Places.

The building had a bar and bowling alleys. It likely had meeting rooms and a banquet hall like other ethnic halls in the city.

The Lithuanian Liberty Hall closed years ago and is now a Hispanic church, reflecting the changed demographics of Elizabethport.



Wedding Reception at a Hall ca. early 1900s

This photo of a wedding reception in the early 1900s was probably taken at one of the ethnic social halls in Union Square or Elizabethport. "Bohemia Beer", seen in the ad at top left, was a brand of the Rising Sun Brewery on Marshall St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Ukrainian National Hall on Fulton St.

The Ukrainian National Hall was located years ago in this building at 214 Fulton St. A bar and shuffleboards were located in the basement. It was originally the Fulton Street Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1859. Today this is the Primera Iglesia del Nazareno church, reflecting the shift to a Hispanic population of the area.



Former Workmen's Circle on Court St.

The Workmen's Circle was established this building at 515 Court St. about 1920 for the benefit of the Jewish population of Elizabethport. The organization later operated a nursing home at 225 West Jersey St. now called Elmora Hills.

The Workmen's Circle welcomes new generations of Jewish families, cultivates Jewish community and culture and promotes social justice. There are 15,000 member families in the U.S. including 3,000 in New Jersey. The Court St. building today is the Liberty Baptist Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Portuguese Instructive Social Club Then and Now

Portuguese immigrants started coming to Elizabeth in the early 1900s, with many settling in the Port section. Amadeu Correia established the Portuguese Instructive Social Club in 1922 at 131 Pine St. The Club's purpose was to preserve Portuguese culture, language and traditions and to help the newcomers learn English and adjust to American culture. By 1925 the Club had a drama group, orchestra and soccer team.

As the Portuguese population grew, the Portuguese Instructive Social Club moved to a larger building at 131 Third St. shown in the top photo. I remember attending the wedding of one of my Portuguese cousins there in the early

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

1950s. In 1970 the Club raised funds to construct a new building at 417 US Route 1 and 9, at the corner of Grove St., shown in the bottom photo. By 2002 the Amadeu Correia Portuguese school had 275 students.



Charles F. Weller and Family ca. 1918

At the time of World War I, Elizabeth had over 40 different nationalities but newcomers were not always welcomed with open arms. When a group of Portuguese workers were attacked and robbed in 1924, and nothing was done about it, Charles and Eugenia Weller stepped forward. The Wellers had formed the League of Neighbors in Elizabeth in 1918 to promote racial and ethnic harmony. The office was at 100 Broad St. The League held meetings with diverse groups to find solutions to the conflicts. Multicultural fairs, concerts and parades were held, which promoted understanding and acceptance of diversity.

Charles Frederick Weller (1870-1957) began a career in social work in 1896. He married Eugenia Winston, also a social worker, in 1901. They had a daughter Philena and a son Clark. In the early 1900s he was an executive of various charities in Chicago and Washington, DC. Weller became a leader of organizations for peace and cooperation and was an idealist all his life. His organization, League of Neighbors, provided medical, legal and English instruction aid to immigrants. Centers were also established in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, London and Dublin. Weller later founded the World Fellowship of Faiths.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Weller family portrait was taken at the Scott Photography Studio at 84 Broad St. and dates to about 1918. It was used as a Christmas greeting card by the Wellers. They lived at 38 Reid St., just a few doors away from my grandparents John and Carmela Imbriaco, who came from Italy in the early 1900s.



Portugal Day Parade at Union Square in 2014. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

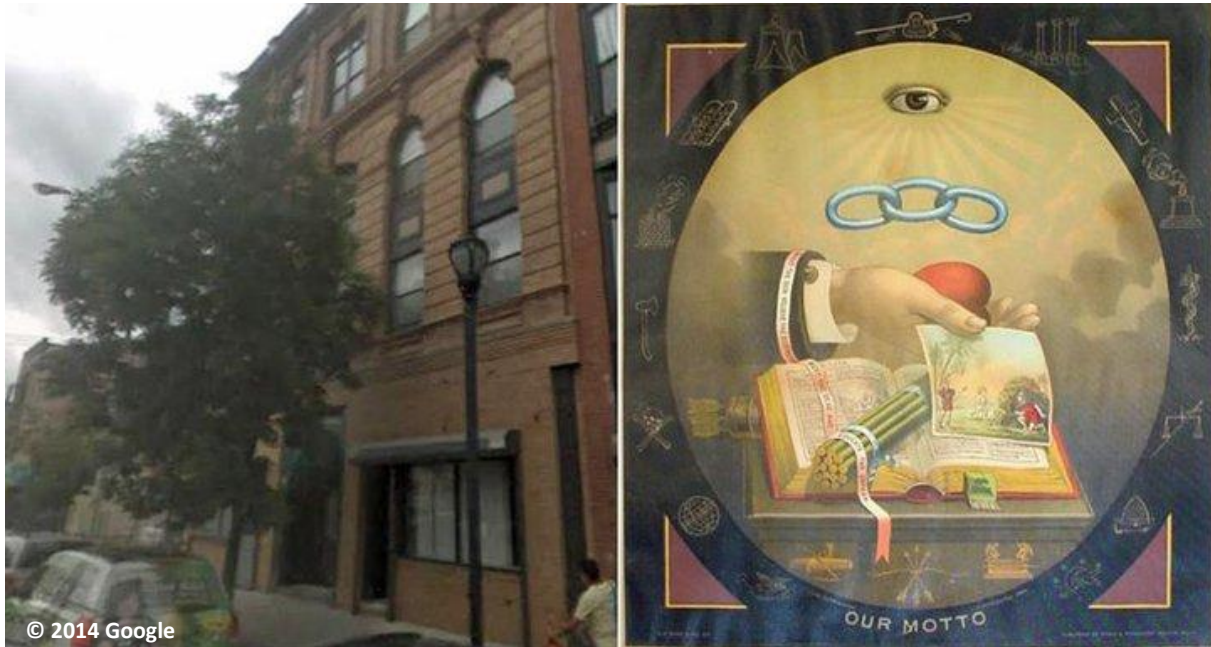
Families in early 1900s portraits were usually seen posing stiffly and unsmiling for the camera. But here is a spirited portrait of a smiling young mother holding up her baby boy. The photographer was Isidore Fieldman who had a studio on Fulton St. for many years. He may have used flash powder to capture the spontaneity of the scene.



Mother and Baby ca. 1910

The young woman is Lillian Wacker and her son's name is Chester. The 1910 census reported Lillian, 23, and her husband George, 27, living at 417 Franklin St. with one year old Chester. George was a laborer at Singer.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Odd Fellows Hall on First St.

The Odd Fellows Hall was located in this building at 111 First St. in the early 1900s. The original location of the hall was on the second floor over Fishbaugh's fish market next door, which burned down along with other buildings on the block in a fire in 1896.

The Odd Fellows fraternal organization dates to 1748 in England. The origin of the name is speculative; one explanation is that the original Odd Fellows were men who were engaged in various or odd trades. The organization was established in this country in 1819 as the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). The three links in their motto represent friendship, love and truth. The Odd Fellows strive to improve and elevate the character of mankind by aiding the community in every way possible.

The 1919 City Directory shows the Odd Fellows had moved to 909 Elizabeth Ave. The First St. building became the Polish National Home.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Bayway Polish Home on Pulaski St.

The Bayway Polish Home was originally known as the Polish National Home Association, located in 1919 at 111 First St. In 1967 the organization moved to a new building at 625 Pulaski St. which became the Bayway Polish Home.

The New York Times published a story on the Bayway Polish Home in 2008 titled "At a Polish Dance Hall, Music Never Fades", a proclamation that sadly is no longer true. The Polish population of the city has declined over the years, including the working class community of Bayway. In the 2010 census, Hispanics and Latinos of any race made up 59.5 percent of the city population. Today the New Jersey cities with the largest Polish populations are Garfield, Clifton, Passaic, Wallington and Linden.

The Bayway Polish Home closed in 2013. The building has been demolished.

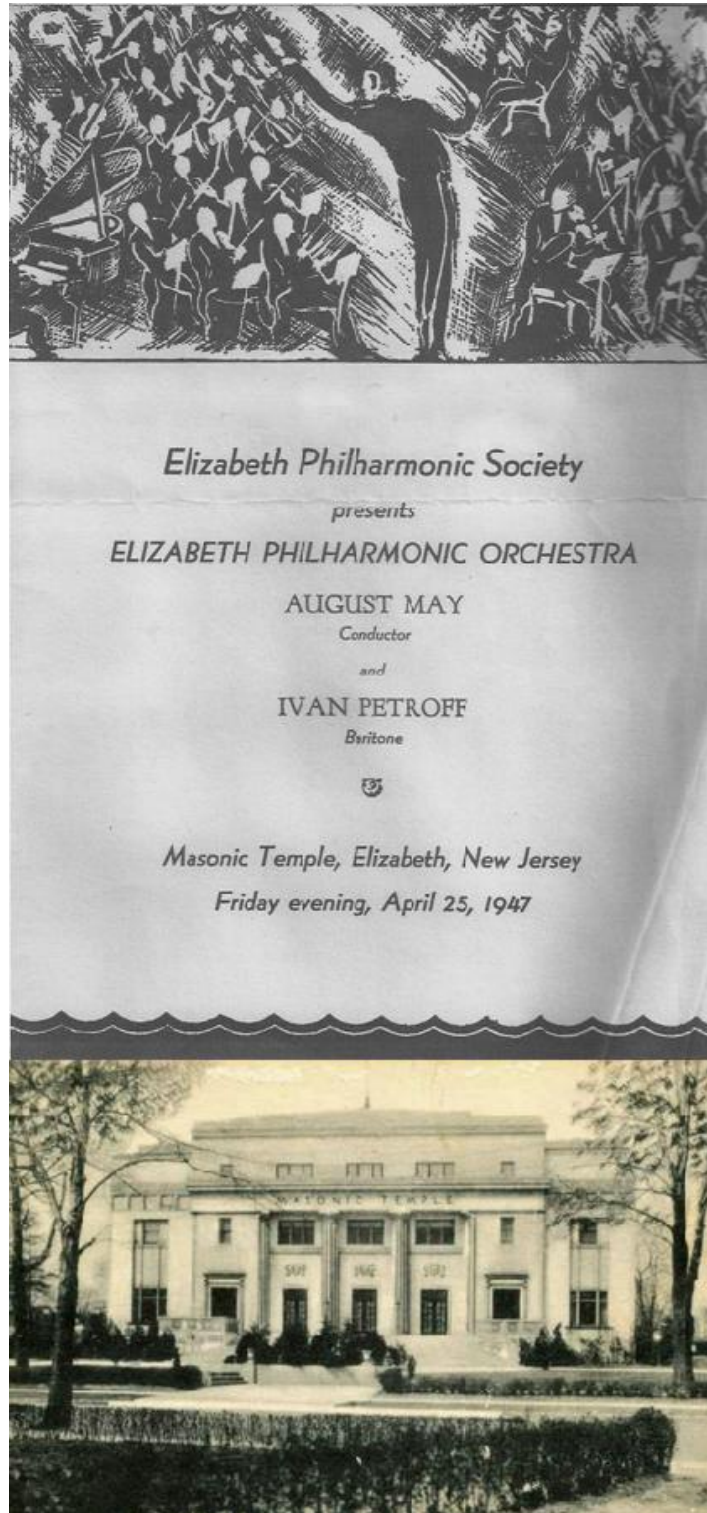
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Polish Falcons Club on Third St.

The Polish Falcons Club was located at 153 Third St. at the corner of South Park St. The 1922 Sanborn map shows the ornately designed building had a hall, gymnasium and bowling alley. In 1999 the building was sold for \$255,000. It became the Allstar nightclub in recent years but the building is closed and for sale again.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Philharmonic Orchestra and Masonic Temple on North Broad St.

The Elizabeth Philharmonic Orchestra was established in 1932 and played at the Masonic Temple at 668 North Broad St. The orchestra had 75-80 musicians and held five concerts a year in addition to several matinees for school children. Pianist Arthur May was the conductor for many years. The top image is of the program held on April 25, 1947, featuring famous baritone Ivan Petroff , who dropped his law studies in Vienna to study singing with

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Fernando De Lucia in 1923. In 1928 Petroff made his debut in Bologna in *Barbiere di Siviglia*. He went on to star in leading roles for major opera companies in Europe and the U.S. Local soloists were also given the opportunity to perform with the orchestra.

In the early 1950s the orchestra had funding problems and curtailed the number of performances. One of the last performances was a benefit concert at Union Junior College in 1956.

The Masonic Temple, designed about 1920 by noted architect Richard G. Schmid in the style of a Greek temple, was demolished after 1979 and replaced with apartment buildings.



Halloween Performers in 1913

This photo was taken in Elizabeth on October 30, 1913 by photographer Isidore Fieldman who had a studio on Fulton St. It shows a group of young people prior to the performance of a play or skit for a Halloween celebration. There are 30 people in the photo and most are in costumes that run the gamut from blackface minstrels to Miss Liberty and Annie Oakley. Note the male Little Red Riding Hood in the first row.

Blackface performers are unheard of today but that wasn't the case in 1913 when African-Americans were stereotyped. Vaudeville acts routinely featured comics or minstrels in blackface. Thankfully the discriminatory practice ended years ago but this photo reflects the state of race relations in Elizabeth in the early 1900s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Street Sprinklers 1922

Elizabeth had no municipal swimming pool in 1922, so the torrid summer had kids cooling off in the swimming holes of the Elizabeth River at the Kean estate and Westfield Avenue. More adventurous kids dove into the Arthur Kill. But swimming in these locations could be hazardous and sometimes resulted in drowning. City officials came up with the idea of setting up street sprinkling stations and Mayor Victor Mravlag approved the plan. A sprinkler head was mounted on an 8 foot high wooden derrick and hooked up to a fire hydrant. This provided a water spray with radius of 20 feet. The top photo looks like an Elizabethport scene and the bottom photo was taken in front of the New Point Road Fire Station No. 3. Mayor Mravlag is standing on the left. Kids wore one piece swimsuits or just their street clothes.

A more permanent solution to the sweltering summers took place in 1930 with the opening of the William G. Dowd Municipal Swimming Pool, located on the Arthur Kill at Front and East Jersey Streets.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Dowd Pool in Elizabethport 1939

The William G. Dowd Municipal Swimming Pool, located on the Arthur Kill at Front and East Jersey Streets, opened in 1930. Admission for adults was 15 cents and for children 10 cents. But city officials refused to admit black residents despite the New Jersey law preventing racial discrimination at public facilities. The local NAACP met with the Recreation Commission which issued an integration order. When several black teenagers tried to use the pool, one was arrested on a trumped-up charge of disorderly conduct and two others were roughed up by a mob of white swimmers. Fourteen police officers responded to restore order.

Blacks stayed away from the pool until the summer of 1938 when integration was achieved despite assaults and intimidation. White attendance plummeted but eventually recovered.

The city closed the pool in the early 1950s due to the deteriorated condition and reduced attendance from the polio scare. The only pool my parents approved back then was at the YMCA on Madison Ave., and that was just to take swimming lessons during an Easter break. The Dowd Pool was removed and the area converted to the Dowd Field playground in the late 1950s. Today the area is a parking lot for the Elizabeth Marina and Arthur Kill Park.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Organ Grinder and Monkey

I remember an Italian organ grinder and his monkey that performed on the streets in the 1950s. He would walk thru neighborhoods with a crank organ and a costumed monkey with a little hat strapped on his head. If a crowd gathered he would play a tune and then the monkey held out a cup for coins. I think the organ grinder also walked along Elizabeth parade routes. He may have carried the organ slung over his shoulder or had it mounted on a wheeled cart. I suppose scenes like this are gone forever.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Summit Park in Elmora

Summit Park, at the intersection of Summit Road and Park Avenue, was a wooded area in 1911 when this well dressed gentleman took a ride with his horse and carriage. In 1919 Julia A. Stone donated the triangular patch of land in the foreground to the city. It was named Mattano Circle in honor of native American Sagamore Mattano whose mark was made on the original deed of land conveyed to the city in 1664. The park remains today as one of the smallest in the city.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Liberty Theater on Elizabeth Ave. 1945. 2011 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Gordon's Hippodrome was built on Elizabeth Ave. about 1913. It later became the Liberty theater. The top photo is a view of Elizabeth Ave. looking toward the Courthouse and First Presbyterian Church. The Liberty theater had a double feature: "The Falcon in Frisco" and Crime Inc." so the year is 1945. Buses have replaced trolleys and parking meters are in place. Note the Food Fair on the left.

Today the Liberty building has been restored as the Liberty Center Bible Institute.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Royal Theater Site on Elizabeth Ave.

This poster advertises movies playing at the Strand, Royal and Gaiety in February 1938. The Royal was an 800 seat theater located in a long, narrow building at 841 Elizabeth Ave. near Union Square. It was open at least since 1923 when an Opus 729 Wurlitzer organ was installed. In 1927 the Stanley-Fabian Corporation, owner of the Ritz and Regent theaters, purchased a half-interest in the Royal and two other theaters in Elizabeth-the Gaiety at 150 Bond St. and the Strand at 362 Elizabeth Ave.

I remember going to the Royal with my cousins when we lived on South St. in the 1950s. For only \$.25 we spent Saturday afternoon watching two features, a Movietone newsreel and two cartoons. The Royal closed about 1955 and was converted to the B.L.B. Meat Market, a Ukrainian store that operated until 1974. The building was demolished after 1995. Today the site is a grassy plot with a fence in front.

The Strand was demolished in the early 1950s to make way for the New Jersey Turnpike. The Gaiety site is now an apartment building.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Parade at Union Square 1916

This postcard is dated 1916 and shows a patriotic parade marching down First Ave. toward Elizabeth Ave. It may have been a July 4th event. The band on the right side looks to be in military uniform, perhaps the Navy. Note the cobblestone paving and the trolley tracks on Elizabeth Ave. The building on the right housed the grocery store of Jacob Hauenstein. Further to the right, but out of view, was the Morris Aaron bicycle shop at 804-806 First Ave., established in 1904. Aaron also sold early Harley-Davidson motorcycles, which looked like a motorized bicycle back then. The shop closed a few years ago.

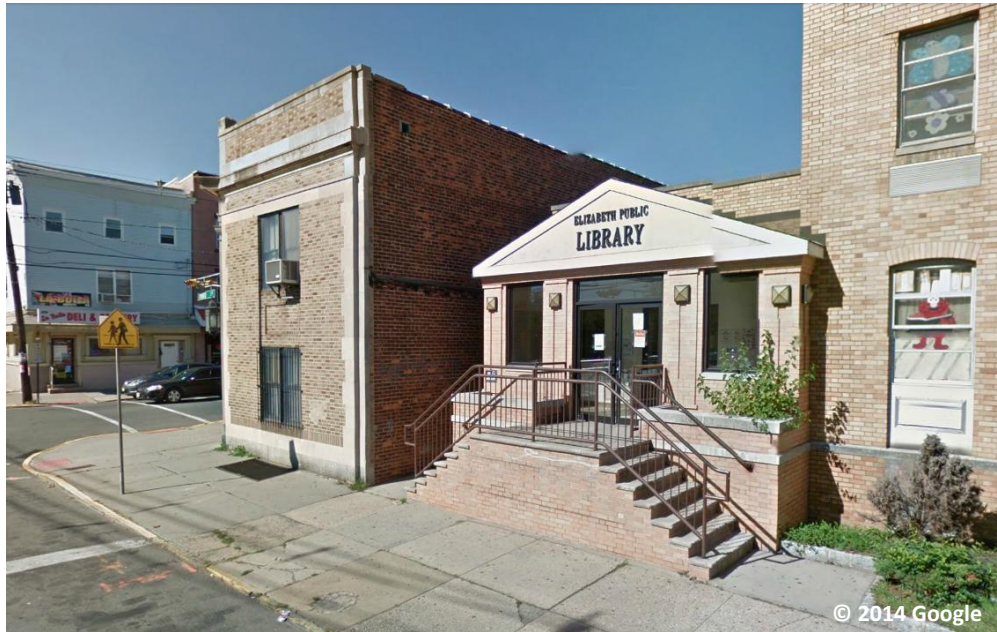
The two story home in the center, at the corner of High St. was owned by architect William L. Finne. It was later replaced by a small A & P grocery store where we shopped in the early 1950s.



Pretzel Seller

I remember the pretzel sellers that walked along parades on Broad St. and Elizabeth Avenue. We would buy plate sized hot pretzels from these peddlers. I could not find a photo of a pretzel seller in Elizabeth but found this photo taken perhaps in Philadelphia.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Walton Theater on Third St.

The Walton movie theater was located at 104 Third St. in 1915. Developer Oliver Story built several buildings on this stretch of Third St at the time. In 1946 the Cocalis Amusement Co. of New York purchased all the buildings at 102-112 Third St. from the Oliver Story estate with plans to build a 1200 seat movie theater. But the plans were not realized.

Soteris D. Cocalis was a Greek immigrant who developed an independent chain of 38 theaters. He built the Strand theater on Elizabeth Ave. and Fourth St. in 1920. He lived at 21 Palisade Road. Cocalis died in 1939 at age 52.

Today the Walton theater building is a branch of the Elizabeth Public Library.



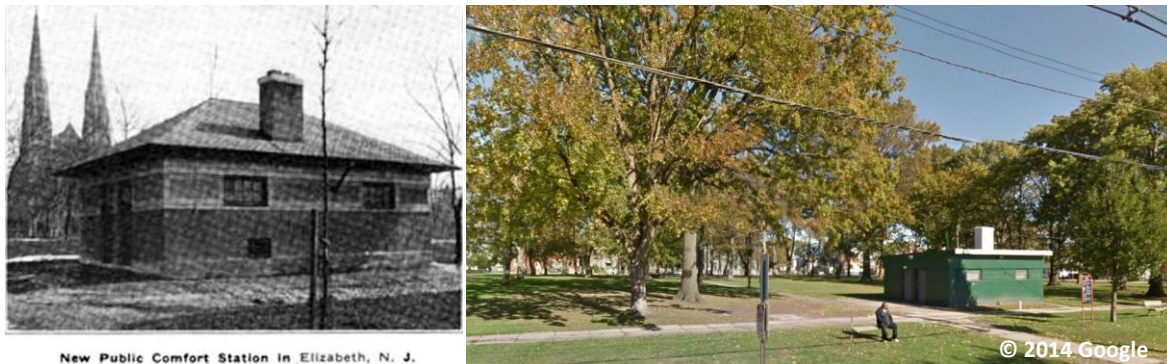
Controversial Film at State Theater 1930. Today Theater is Apartment Building.

In 1930 the State Theater at 510 Elizabeth Ave. attempted to show the controversial film on birth control "No More Children". The plot was simple: a judge denies a divorce to a young couple with four children, and orders them to have no more children. The wife dies when she undergoes an illegal operation to sterilize her.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

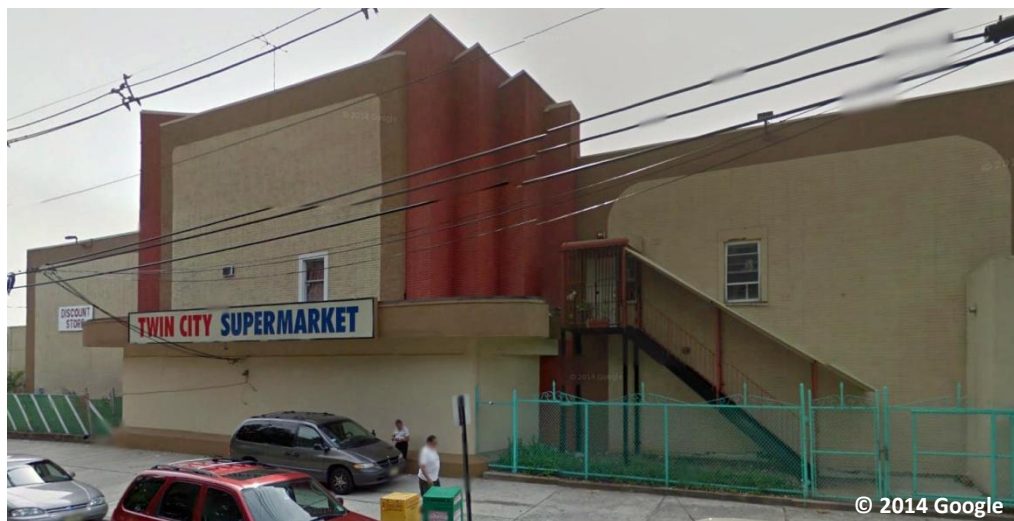
City Attorney James R. Nugent served notice on the management several hours before the film opened that police would make arrests if the film was shown. An hour before the doors were to open, a large crowd gathered in front of the theater. The police dispersed the crowd of 300, mostly women and girls, telling them the film would not be shown. A police detail was then stationed at the theater. The theatre management announced that an injunction would be sought to restrain the police from interfering with the showing of the picture. The next day state officials reversed the city's censorship decision and allowed the film to be shown.

In 1965 the theater became the Spencer Auto Parts business. The building was recently converted to apartments.



Jackson Park Comfort Station 1921 and Today

While many of the city's architectural gems have been demolished over the years, it is comforting to know the public restroom at Jackson Park on Broadway has been meeting urgent needs since 1921. The building and fixtures, designed and specified by noted Elizabeth architect C. Godfrey Poggi, cost \$8,000, equivalent to \$95,000 today. The state of the art structure had self-closing faucets for water conservation and vandal resistant features. The city was expected to install public restrooms in other locations.



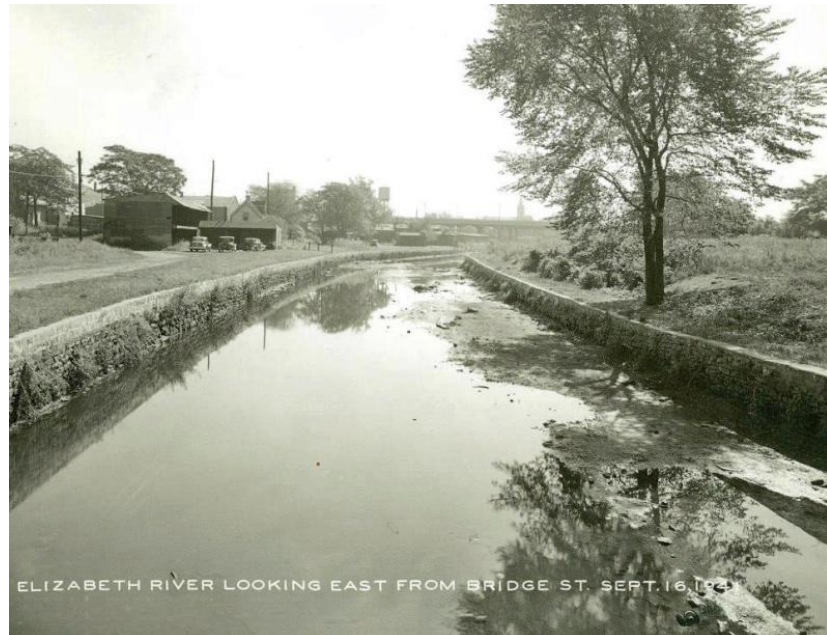
Former Twin City Arena on Sherman Ave.

The Twin City supermarket at 1016 Sherman Ave. occupies the former Twin City roller skating arena. Roller skating was immensely popular in the 1940s-50s with pro league matches broadcast on TV. There was also a boxing arena there called the Twin City Bowl, where Sugar Ray Robinson knocked out Sid Miller in 1946.

Nearby was the Dreamland Rink at 987 Frelinghuysen Ave. in Newark. Boxing matches were held in the outdoor arena at Dreamland Park between 1925 and 1935. Famous boxers Mickey Walker, Primo Carnera and Two Ton

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Tony Galento fought there with attendance up to 22,000. Dreamland was destroyed by a fire in 1965 and was replaced by apartment buildings.



Elizabeth River 1941 and New Trail Entrance on South Broad St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The Elizabeth River Trail opened in 2012, providing walkers with a much improved view compared to the top photo of the river taken in 1941. Signs are posted along the way highlighting historic buildings in the area such as St. John's Parsonage off Pearl St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Union County Park Commission Administration Building

The Union County Park Commission Administration Building in Warinanco Park was completed in 1925. The architect was C. Godfrey Poggi who designed Battin High School, Grover Cleveland Junior High School, the Singer Recreation Building, commercial buildings and factories in Elizabeth and Union County. The architectural style is Tudor Revival. This beautiful building remains in use today and is on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Baptista Family at Henry S. Chatfield Bench in Warinanco Park

Our holidays and family gatherings often included a visit to Warinanco Park for photos amid the beautiful scenery, especially in the spring. The top photo was taken in 1946. Left to right: no name, Manuel Medeiros Sr., Joe Baptista, no name, Emilia Baptista, Joseph Baptista Sr., Robert Baptista, Olga Botelho, Viola Baptista, Eufrosina Medeiros, Esther Botelho, no name. Olga and Esther Botelho had just come from Portugal as teenagers and lived with us for about a year.

We were sitting on the stone bench monument in the tulip garden that honors Henry Summers Chatfield (1864-1933), first president of the Union County Park System. Chatfield owned a shellac factory in Rahway.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Irish Hospitals' Sweepstakes Ticket

I recall when buying the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstakes tickets was popular in Elizabeth. They were illegal in the U.S. but my father bought them in the 1950s from a guy who sold them door to door. The winners received up to \$500,000 if their ticket matched the winner of a major Irish horse race such as the Irish Derby, a fortune in those days. The lottery was supposed to help rundown Irish hospitals but the proceeds instead went to a small group of wealthy Irish men who used the money to build up private businesses like Waterford Glass.

The legalization of gambling in the U.S. in the 1960s spelled the end of the Irish Sweepstakes. Ireland launched a new national lottery in 1987.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Former Christine Lee's Gaslight Restaurant on Cherry St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

In 1959 Christine Lee Mallock opened her first Christine Lee's Gaslight restaurant at 66 Cherry St. The Chinese restaurant was one of the more upscale places to dine in the city. In 1969 Lee was attacked by a mugger in the carport of her home and badly injured. She moved to Florida and went into the restaurant business in Miami Beach. In 1974 Christine Lee's Gaslight was in the Thunderbird hotel on Collins Ave. in Miami Beach. It served Chinese-American food and was a popular gathering spot for celebrities, complete with bar and a performing stage. In addition to the Miami Beach restaurant, she also opened Christine Lee's North Gate in Ft. Lauderdale.

Christine Lee died in 1996 and her restaurant closed in 2007. Her daughter Mary operates a Christine Lee's restaurant in Gulfstream Park today.

The original restaurant on Cherry St. became the Mi Tierra Restaurant and Bar. Note the gaslight that remains today at the entrance. However the restaurant closed in 2011.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Columbian Festival at Morris Ave. and Julian Place in 2013. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The 2010 census indicated that the population of Elizabeth grew to 125,000 residents, almost a four percent increase from 2000. Hispanic residents are the fastest growing segment, now representing 60 percent of the population. More than 11,000 Columbian residents now call Elizabeth home.

The City's ethnic diversity is expressed with special ethnic days, festivals and parades.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Top: Elizabeth Wheelmen 1889. Bottom: Tour de Elizabeth Bike Race 2012. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

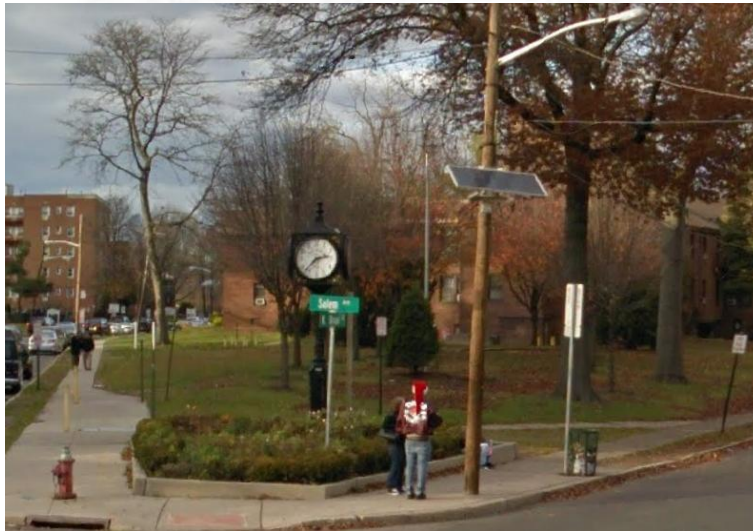
The installation of paved roads (cobblestones) led to the formation of the Elizabeth Wheelmen bike riding club in 1883. By 1889 the club had over 50 members and a clubhouse on East Grand St. (top photo). Bike riding is still popular in the city today, with the Tour de Elizabeth held each May attracting many riders and spectators.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

5. Schools



Old North End School House



North End School House at North Broad St. and Salem Ave.

The North End School House was built before 1773 on the triangular land at the intersection of North Broad St. and Salem Ave. The one-story wooden building, financed by neighbors, faced the intersection and was surrounded by a grove of trees. The school had a fireplace and chimney on the western side. The cupola atop the school had a bell cast with the inscription "A gift by Capt. David Lyon 1789, made by David Ross at Elizabeth Town". The school was closed in 1861 due to safety concerns and torn down. Frederick Foote, a former teacher at the school, became

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

director of the local newspaper The New Jersey Journal in 1863. In 1871 the name was changed to The Elizabeth Daily Journal. The school bell was eventually given to Battin High School. The site is called North End Park today.



Miss Ranney's School for Young Ladies on South Broad St. 1889 and Today

Miss Ranney's Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies was located in this three-story building at 211 South Broad St. at Pearl St. It was established in 1861 by Nancy D. Ranney who had teaching experience in Newark, NJ

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

and Hartford, CT. The school was taken over in 1881 by Miss Purviance and in 1889 by Miss Hunt. The school was divided into three departments, primary, academic and collegiate, with French and German classes under native teachers; and lectures on the sciences, history and art. The school closed in the 1890s and became a boarding house known as the Hillcrest Hotel. It was demolished around 1970 and the site today is occupied by a gas station.



Pingry School on Union Ave.

John F. Pingry founded the Pingry School for boys in Elizabeth in 1861. The first location was in a house on Westminster Ave. In 1894 Pingry built a new school on Union Ave. near Parker Road, shown in this vintage photo. The school moved to a modern building on North Ave. in 1953. Pingry later became co-educational, with the first female students graduating in 1976.

In 1983 the school moved to Martinsville. The earlier location on Union Ave. is now the site of the Nicholas M. Butler School 23. The North Ave. building is now part of Kean University:



Former Pingry School on North Ave. Now Kean University. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Vail-Deane School on Salem Ave.

The Vail-Deane School traces its history to Miss Hayward's School, established in 1869 near Jefferson Park. The name was changed to The Misses Vail and Deane's English and French School for young ladies and girls. In 1877 the school moved to a larger building at 279 North Broad St. near the intersection of Westfield Ave., shown in this 1906 postcard. By 1919 the school relocated to 521 North Broad St., the building formerly known as the Elizabeth Institute for Young Ladies. About 1930, Vail-Deane acquired the Fowler Mansion at 618 Salem Ave., seen in the bottom photo.

In 1986 the building was added to the national historic landmarks list. After the school closed, the building was acquired by the Darul Islam mosque which remains in operation today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Battin High School on South Broad St. 1889

The original Battin High School, shown in this 1889 photo, stood on the hill at the corner of South Broad and South Streets. It was once a private residence known as the Dimock Mansion which was built in 1873. The Italianate architectural style was popular at that time, characterized by tall, arched windows and a rooftop cupola. Joseph Battin donated the building to the City of Elizabeth in 1889 for use as a high school.

This is a description of Battin High when it opened in September 1889:

"The building is an enormous three-story brown-stone structure, with spacious halls and rooms en suite; the floors, casements, stairways, doors, mantels and fittings being of the most costly natural woods. Its original cost was \$250,000, and on the day it was handed over to the city it was perfect in every appointment. Its spacious rooms will afford ample accommodation for the present and a long future, as from 400 to 500 pupils can occupy the many class rooms without crowding. There is no high school building in the State that can afford equal facilities.

In the well lighted basement are six large rooms, which are used for manual training, and here the industrial classes work in wood and clay. To the left of the hall, on the first floor, is the great drawing room, and to the rear of it, separated only by a broad arch, the music room. These two are thrown into one and make a fine assembly hall. To the right is a reception room, and to the rear of that a large dining hall, which is used as a meeting chamber of the Board of Education. To the rear is a large library, with magnificent cases for thousands of books. This is suitable for the office of the Superintendent of Public Schools. To the left of this the Principal of the High School has an office.

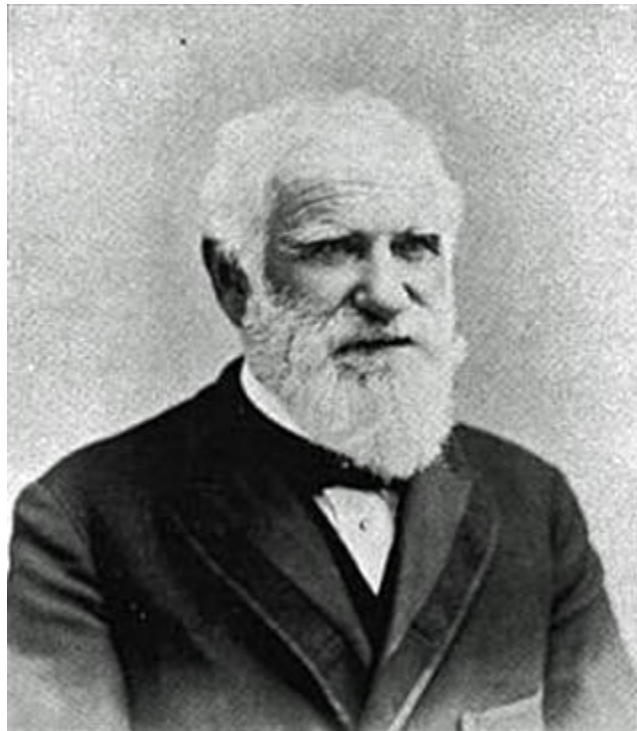
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

On the second floor are six spacious apartments for class rooms, each having a retiring room attached, so that each teacher will have a private office and library. On the third floor the rooms correspond with those on the second. Here, also, are class rooms, and ample light is obtainable for the art school. On the roof is a large tower room commanding an extensive prospect in all directions. This, in time, will be found of use as an observatory.

The many large windows throughout the building and the lofty ceilings leave nothing to be asked for in the way of light and ventilation; and there is a complete steam heating apparatus. The broad halls and stairways furnish ample egress and ingress. Altogether it is a palatial temple of education and a worthy monument to the generosity of the city's benefactor.

In September of the present year the High School department held its first sessions in the Battin building, with Miss L. H. Sayre as principal, and a corps of efficient assistants. The city, the Board of Education and the pupils may well be congratulated upon the possession of so magnificent a High School building."

Source: Quotation from Elizabeth New Jersey Illustrated, 1889.



Joseph Battin (1807-1893)

Elizabeth benefitted from the philanthropy of many wealthy 19th century residents including the eccentric Joseph Battin. He gave away most of his fortune, including his mansion at South Broad and South Streets, donated to the city for use as a high school in 1889. But his family was really alarmed in 1891 when octogenarian Battin, a life-long Baptist, embraced the Faith Curists. This was an evangelical Protestant sect that believed illness could be cured by prayer, not medical treatment. He left Elizabeth, abandoning his family, and went to live with the Rev. Simpson, the leader of the group, in New York City. He gave the Faith Curists a brownstone mansion on 59th Street, valued at \$80,000, equivalent to \$1.9 million today. He also gave the group a deed to valuable property on North Broad St. for the construction of a faith cure temple. Just before he gave away the balance of his property, his sons Sylvester S. and Lambert B. Battin began legal proceedings to prove their father was of unsound mind. Battin then agreed to the appointment of his sons as legal guardians responsible for all his financial affairs.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Battin was born in Philadelphia in 1807. He became an accomplished civil and mechanical engineer, inventing the modern coal breaker in 1844. The iron-teethed rollers cracked the hardest anthracite coal into small lumps suitable for furnaces. His name should have been ranked with Eli Whitney, for the coal breaker contributed as much to the Industrial Revolution as the cotton gin. Battin went on to build gas works and water works in Elizabeth, Albany, and other cities in the East. He was the first man to demonstrate that water from Lake Erie could be transported through a tunnel to supply Buffalo. He founded the Elizabeth Water Co. and served as its president for almost 50 years. His son Lambert was superintendent of the company. Battin died in 1893 at 86 years age.



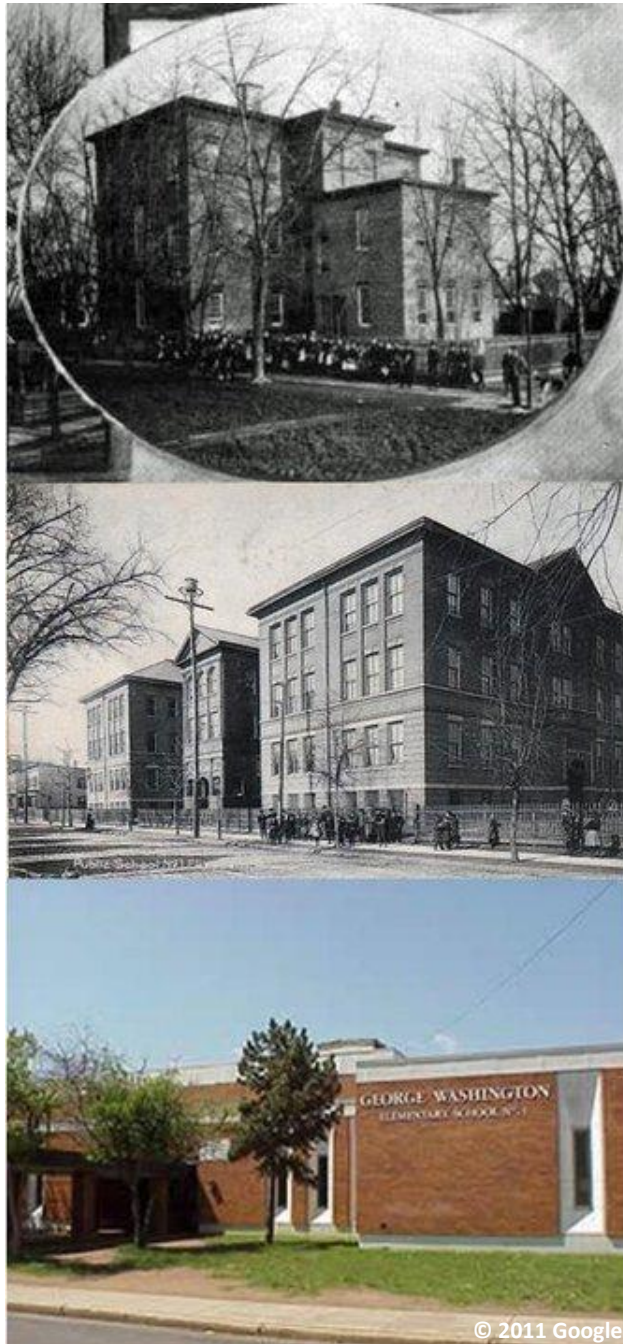
Battin High School and Pediment. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

In 1913 the original Battin High School was replaced with a more modern structure, designed by Elizabeth architect C. Godfrey Poggi. The pediment atop the school is of the Beaux Arts style. The unknown sculptor used stunning imagery to present a knowledge and wisdom theme. The sculptures appropriate and inspirational symbols for a school teaching the arts and sciences. There is an artist's easel; a gear representing industry; a compass resting on the gear representing geometry; an Egyptian pyramid architect or builder wearing a tight fitting skullcap, holding a measuring stick in his right hand and a builder's square in his left hand; a boy holding the torch of knowledge; a young woman reading a book; the seal of the City of Elizabeth; a perched owl, the classic symbol of wisdom; the seated Goddess of Wisdom with laurel in her hair and holding a book or tablet; a boy holding books and resting his hand on the Goddess of Wisdom; a kneeling farmer, subservient to the boy and holding a sheaf of wheat; and a

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

world globe on a stand. The statues of the boy and the farmer represent the transformation of a agrarian society to an industrial society that depends on knowledge. The City of Elizabeth seal is prominent in the center and is surrounded by floral decorations including asparagus representing the fruits of knowledge.

Today the school is called the Joseph Battin School No. 4.



Public School No. 1 on Broadway

Public School No. 1, built on Third St. in 1855, is shown in the top photo of 1889. In 1896 this school was replaced with a larger building equipped with electrical service. The middle photo is a 1906 postcard view. The bottom

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

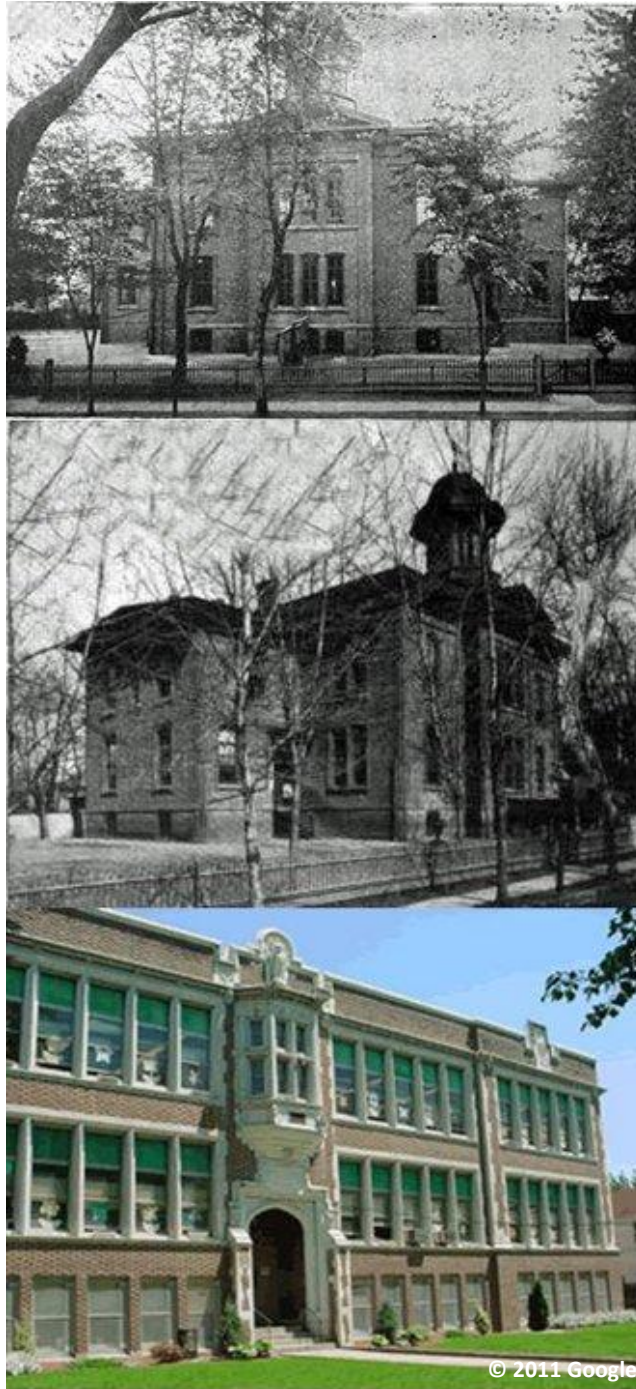
photo is how George Washington School No. 1 looks today. It was built on Broadway and the corner of Third St. in 1971 and is the city's largest elementary school.



Public School No. 1 Kindergarten Class 1912

This is a rare look at a 1912 elementary school classroom. It was taken at Public School 1. The teacher had 48 children in the class. The photographer was Isidore Fieldman who had a studio on Fulton St. near First St.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

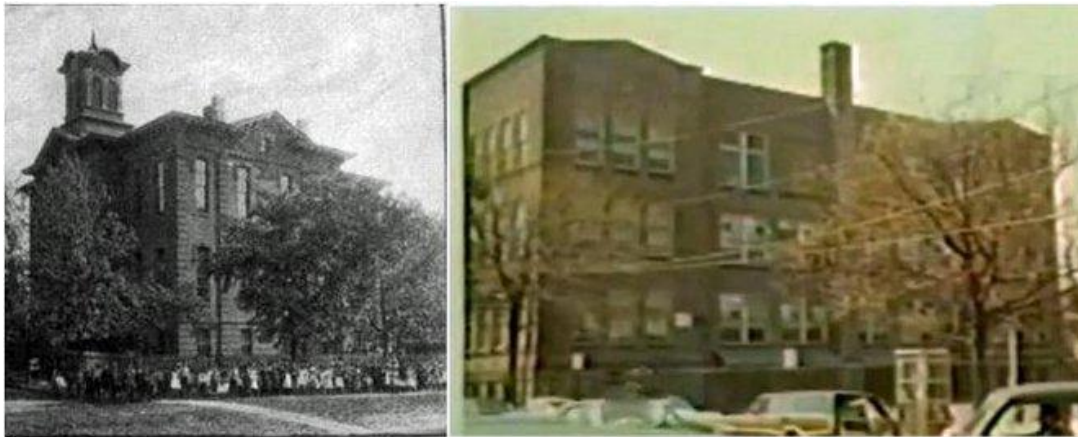


Morrell Street Public School No. 2 Replaced by Winfield Scott School No. 2

The Morrell Street Public School No. 2 was erected in 1858 and altered in 1880 and 1884. It had 13 classrooms, principal's office and a playground paved with asphalt. The top photo is dated 1884 and the middle photo 1889. The school was replaced in 1916 by the Winfield Scott Public School No. 2 at 125 Madison Ave., shown in the bottom photo. The Morrell St. school was later incorporated into the Thomas Jefferson High School built in 1929.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The Morrell St. School became the Thomas Jefferson High School annex and was not torn down until about 1960, when an addition to Jefferson was built."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



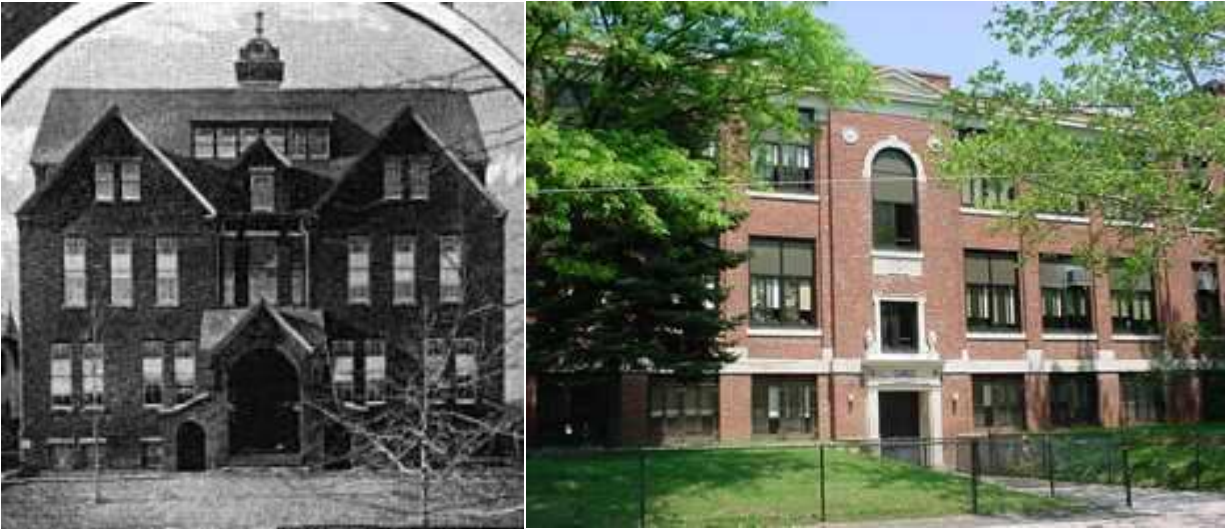
Public School No. 3 in Peterstown

The original Public School No. 3, shown in the top left photo, was built in 1872 on Second Ave. and High St. It had ten classrooms, principal's office and an assembly room. This building was later replaced with Continental School No. 3, shown in the 1960s era photo at top right. This is a view of the rear of the school which had a fenced, asphalt paved playground. When I entered kindergarten in 1949, Mabel Holmes was the principal, the first black principal in the Elizabeth school system. Continental School 3 was replaced in 1983 with the Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3 seen in the bottom photo.

Across the street is O'Brien Field, an unexpected name in the heart of the Italian section of Peterstown. This recreational area was originally called Continental Field since it was next to Continental School 3. The 2.7 acre plot, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, and bounded by South 7th and Christine Streets, was donated to the City in 1912 by the Kean Family. Joseph A. O'Brien graduated from Seton Hall in 1905 and was vice principal of Elias Boudinot School 9 on Jacques St. He then became principal of School 3 and in 1924 was named the first principal of the new

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Grover Cleveland Jr. High School. O'Brien obtained a law degree and was active in Democratic politics, running twice for Mayor in the 1930s. O'Brien died in 1942 and the field was renamed in his honor.



Left: Cherry Street Public School No. 4. Right: Alexander Hamilton Junior High School.

The Cherry St. Public School No. 4, situated between Sayre St. and Westfield Avenue, was erected in 1885. The elementary school had 12 classrooms, principal's office, assembly and library. Some information about the school was reported in an article on Elizabeth schools in the "The World's Work" of 1903-1904:

"Mr. Robinson, at the Cherry Street building in Elizabeth, has, quite unaided, so far as I could see, instituted a happy regime in the big elementary school of which he is principal. The janitor, Mr. Blakeley, was once a florist. Behind the exercise ground, so that it can be seen during all recesses, is a beautiful garden. Between this garden and the school the boys play basket ball and the girls, with much vim, captain ball."

The Cherry St. school was replaced with Alexander Hamilton Junior High School in 1927. The school is now called the Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Jonathan Dickinson Public School No. 5 on Fourth St. 1907

Jonathan Dickinson Public School No. 5 was built in 1889 on Fourth St. between Court St. and South Park St. It had six classrooms and an assembly. This 1907 photo shows two buildings were added to expand classroom space. The school was demolished to make way for the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950.

Today the Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 is part of the former Grover Cleveland Jr. High School First Avenue, which houses both an elementary and middle school.

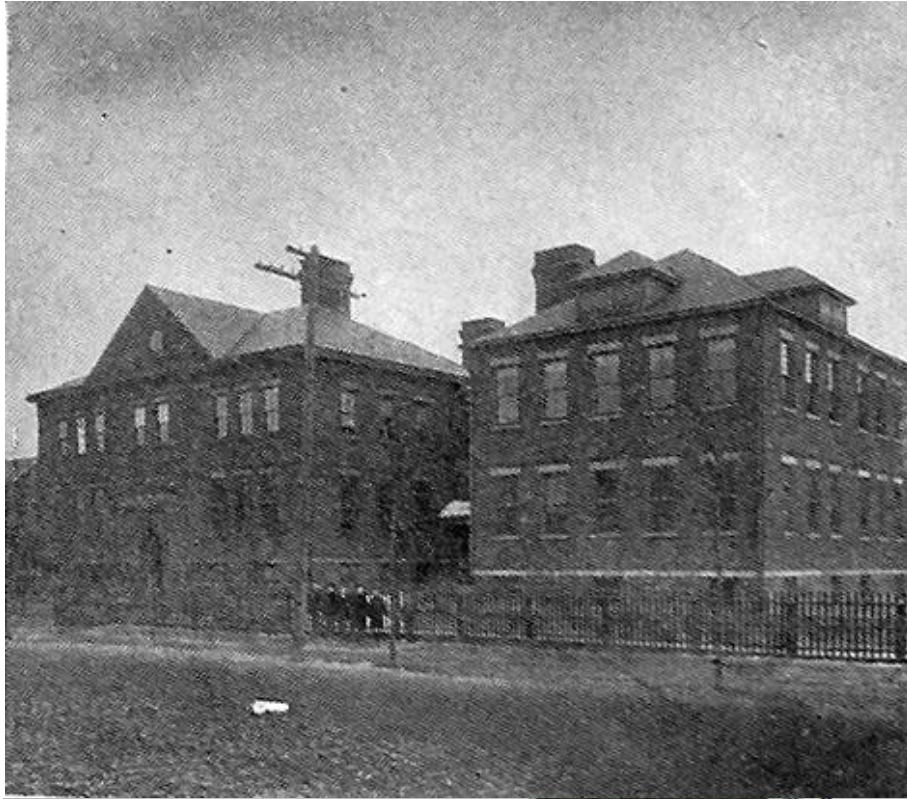
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 on Adams Ave.

Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 was located on Adams Ave. at Julia St. It was erected about 1889 and had six classrooms, assembly and teachers' room. The school was replaced with a larger building at the corner of Julia St. and Monroe Ave. in 1925. This school, shown in the bottom photo, is now called Toussaint L'ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6. Francois-Dominique Toussaint L'ouverture (1743-1803) was the leader of the Haitian Revolution. His name was added to the school to reflect the Haitian community of the city.

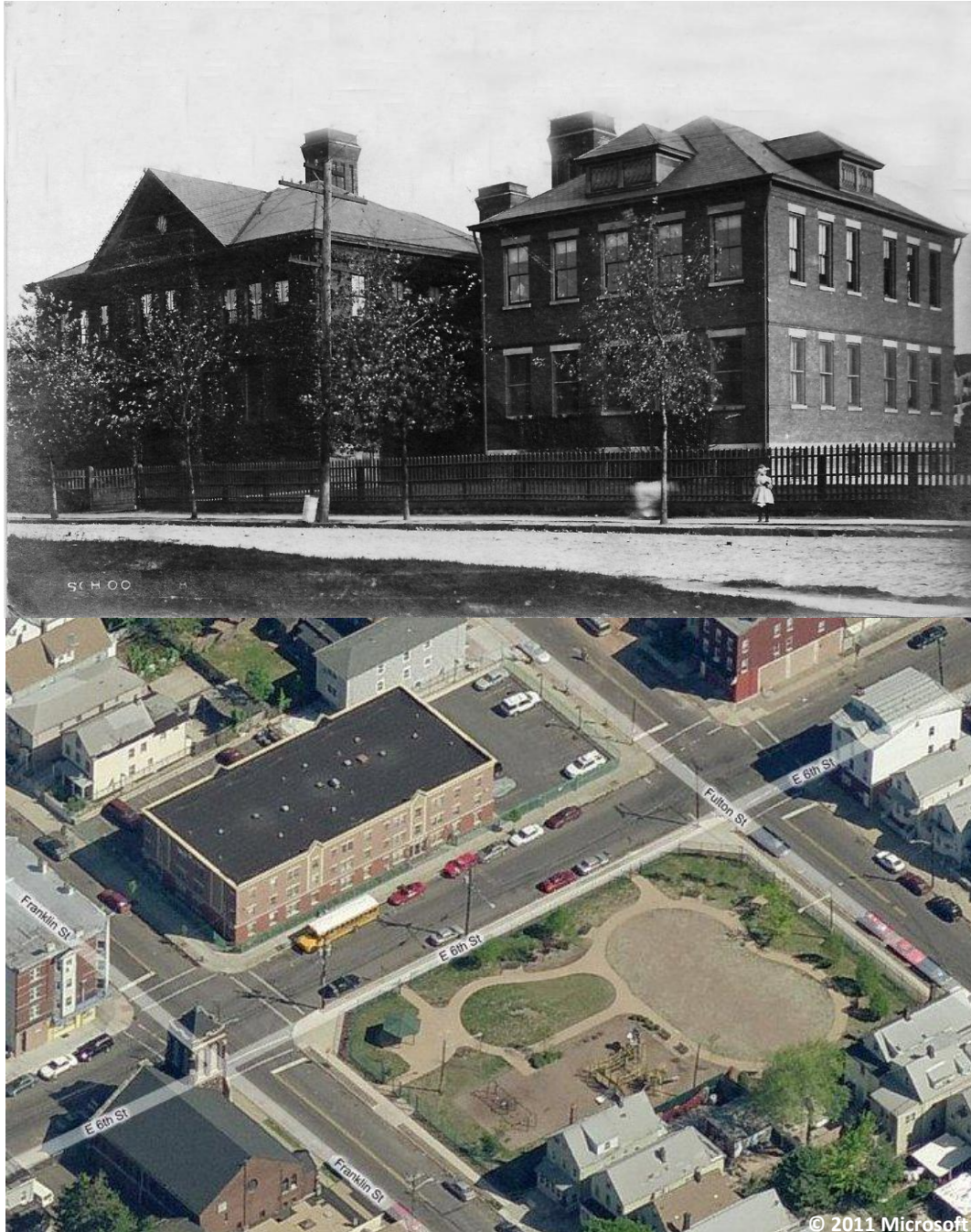
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



James Caldwell Public School No. 7 on Grier Ave.

James Caldwell Public School No. 7 was built in 1894 on Grier Ave. between Grove and Garden Streets. It had five classrooms, assembly and a principal's office. Aerial photos indicate the school was demolished by 1954 and by 1966 St. Vladimir's School was built there. The school, at 425 Grier Ave., was operated by the nearby St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church. It closed in 1986 and reopened a few years later as the public middle school Terence C. Reilly School No. 76, named in honor of a student killed in a motor vehicle accident. This school, shown in the bottom photo, is in use today as a smaller, academy type public school.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Philip Carteret Public School No. 8 on Sixth St.

Philip Carteret Public School No. 8, erected in 1893, was located on the corner of Sixth and Fulton Streets. The school had eight classrooms and a principal's room and was expanded by 1908. The school was demolished in 1958 and the site later became the Sixth St. Playfield.

A vintage photo of classroom no. 5 is shown below.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Philip Carteret School 8 Classroom

This undated photo shows a classroom of students and their teacher at School 8. The photo was taken by noted Elizabeth photographer Isidore Fieldman. He may have used flash powder for the photo.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elias Boudinot Public School No. 9 on Jacques St.

Elias Boudinot Public School No. 9 was built around 1900 on Jacques St. near Elizabeth Ave. In 1916 the principal was William F. Halloran, a recent graduate of Columbia University. Elizabeth would later name School 22 the William F. Halloran School. The basement contained the art and music rooms, gym and restrooms. The school was converted into a condominium, shown in the bottom photo, in the early 1980s.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

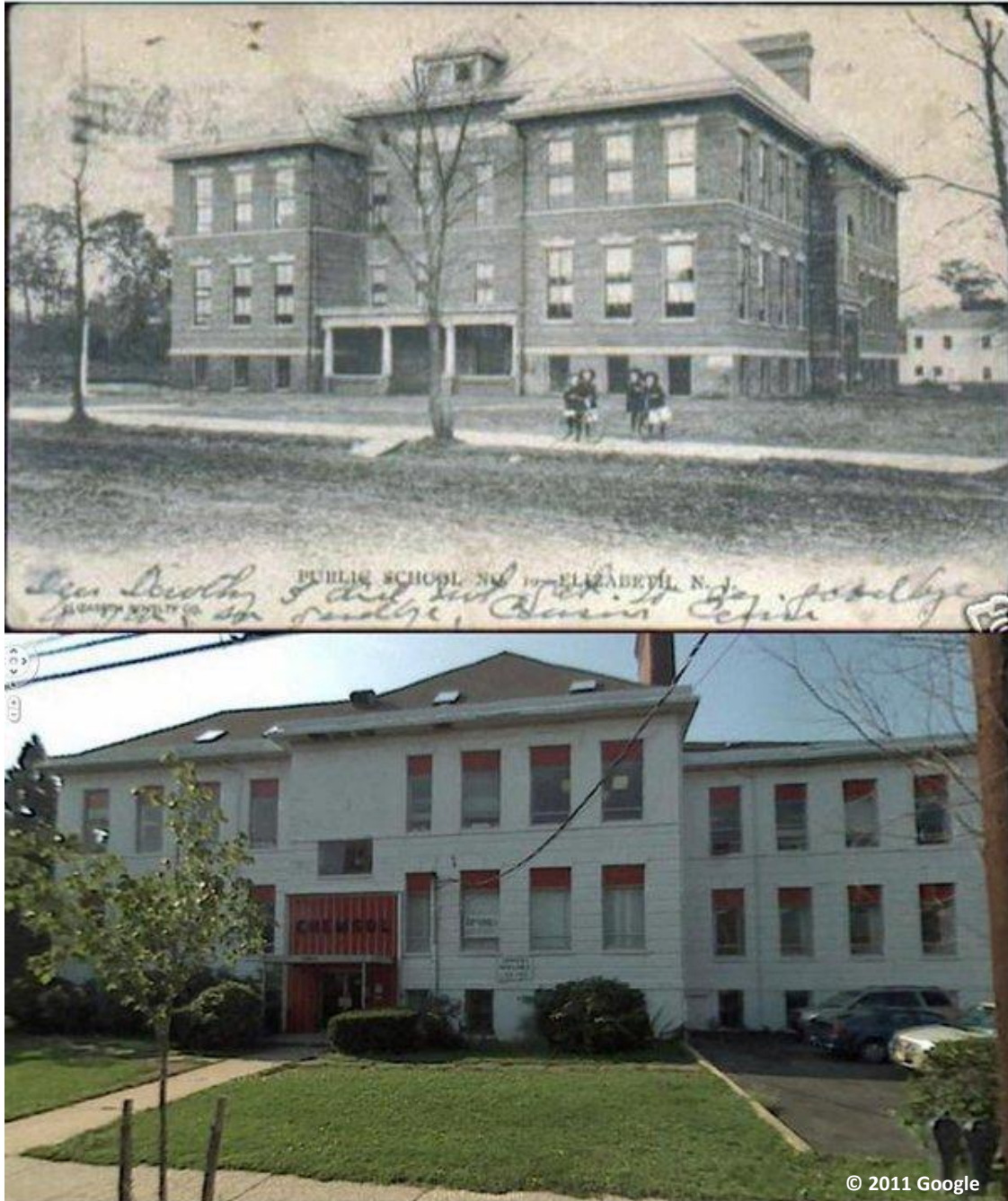


St. Joseph's Academy on First St.

This 1908 postcard shows the St. Josephs Academy located at 183 First St. at Magnolia Ave. The building was erected between 1889 and 1903. It served as the convent for the Dominican Sisters Order and then as a boys school. By 1922 the school had closed with the building converted into four stores, including a drug store.

Today's view shows the building now houses residential apartments. After a period of abandonment, the building was remodeled into twelve one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The project was completed at a cost of \$1.36 million. This is an excellent example of the adaptive reuse of a classic school building in an urban neighborhood.

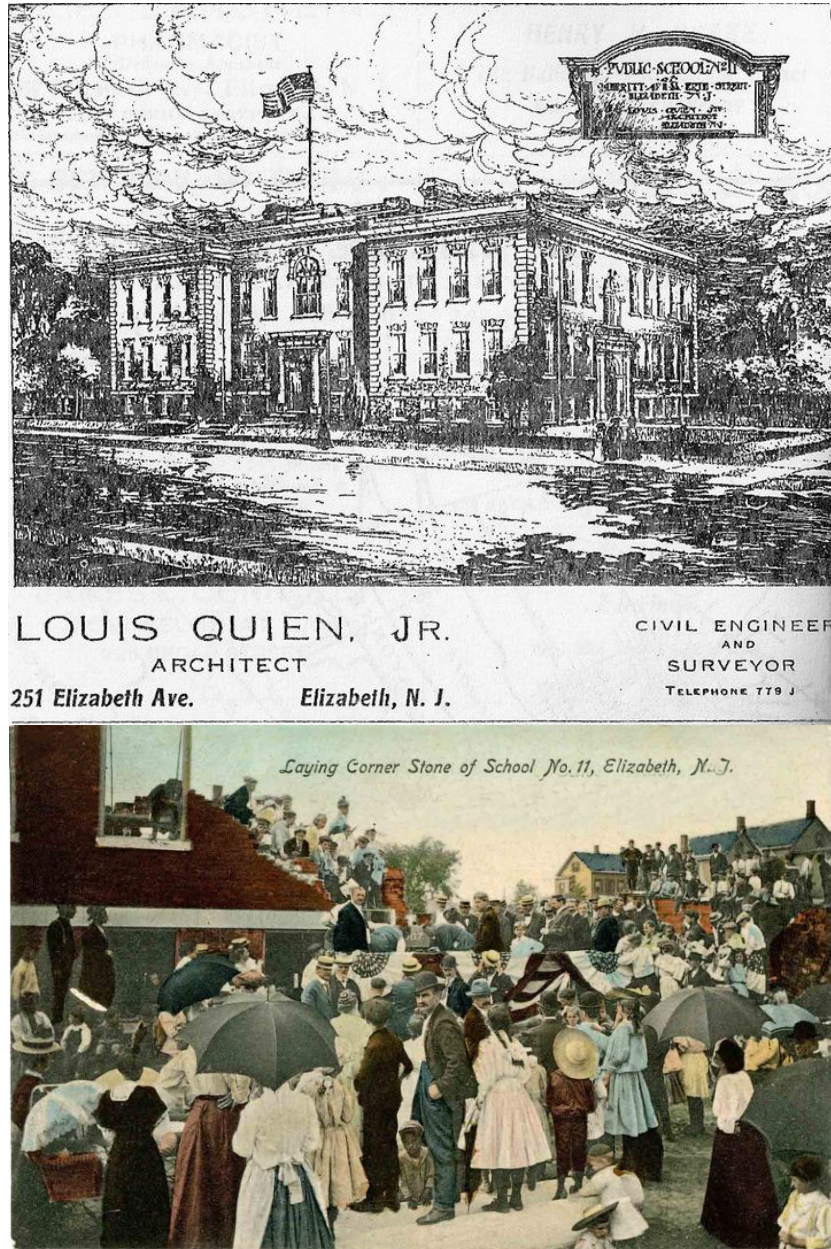
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



William Livingston School No. 10 on Union Ave.

The population of the city increased rapidly after 1890 and new schools were built to keep pace with the growth. William Livingston School No. 10, at the corner of Union Ave. and Prince St, was erected about 1905. This 1906 postcard is the view from Union Ave. The school closed in 1958 upon the opening of the new Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 at 501 Union Ave. The former school building was occupied by Chemsol Inc. in the 1960s, a firm that built units to neutralize acids and other hazardous chemicals in industrial wastes. Chemsol's factory was located nearby at 74 Dod Court. Chemsol left Elizabeth some years ago. The school building has been used since then for a variety of commercial uses and is currently the office of the Union County Legal Services. The bottom photo is the view today from Prince St. I thank Arnold Samuelsen for providing information for this history and locating the vintage photo of the school.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

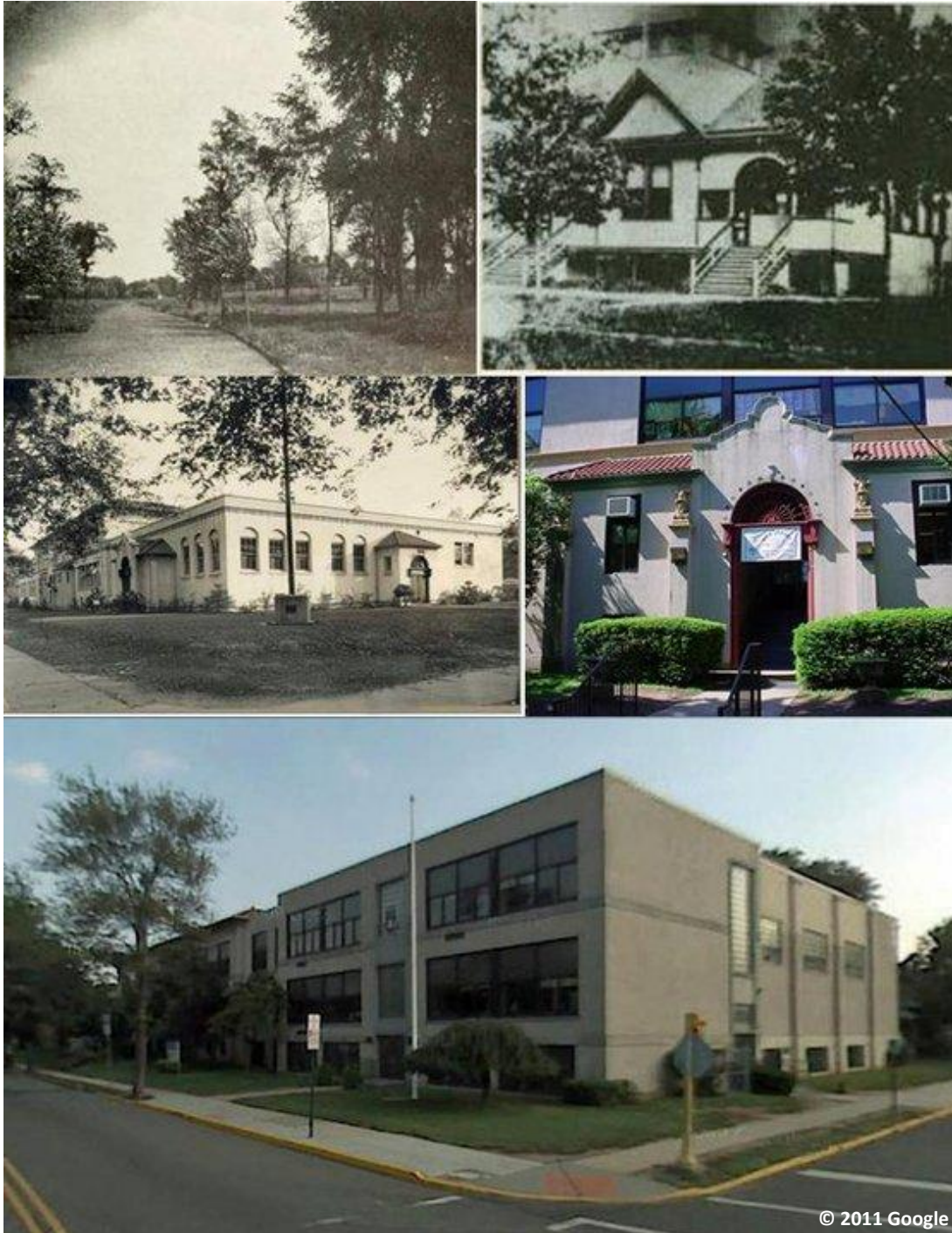


William Penn School No. 11 on Erie St.

The William Penn School No. 11 is shown in architect Louis Quien Jr.'s drawing in 1907. Quien was the city surveyor in the 1890s and served as the city's school architect during 1905-1913. His office and residence was at 251 Elizabeth Ave. Quien designed other municipal buildings including fire houses. He died in 1942 at age 63.

The school, at the corner of Erie St. and Merritt Ave., was demolished after 1987 and replaced with multi-family homes.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elmora School No. 12 on Magie Ave.

Elmora School No. 12 is located at Magie Ave. and Springfield Rd. The school began in a two room wooden building on Magie Farm Road, shown in the top right photo dating to about 1900. El Mora, as it was called back then, was still rural as seen in the top left photo of Park Ave., an unpaved dirt road in 1905. After many lots were sold by the El Mora Land Co. and homes built at a rapid pace, a new school, shown in the middle left photo, was erected in 1916. The architect was G. Godfrey Poggi. The distinctive Spanish style architecture is evident in the red tile roof, stucco walls and decorative arches over the doors and windows. The school was expanded with an addition in 1958.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 on Grove St.

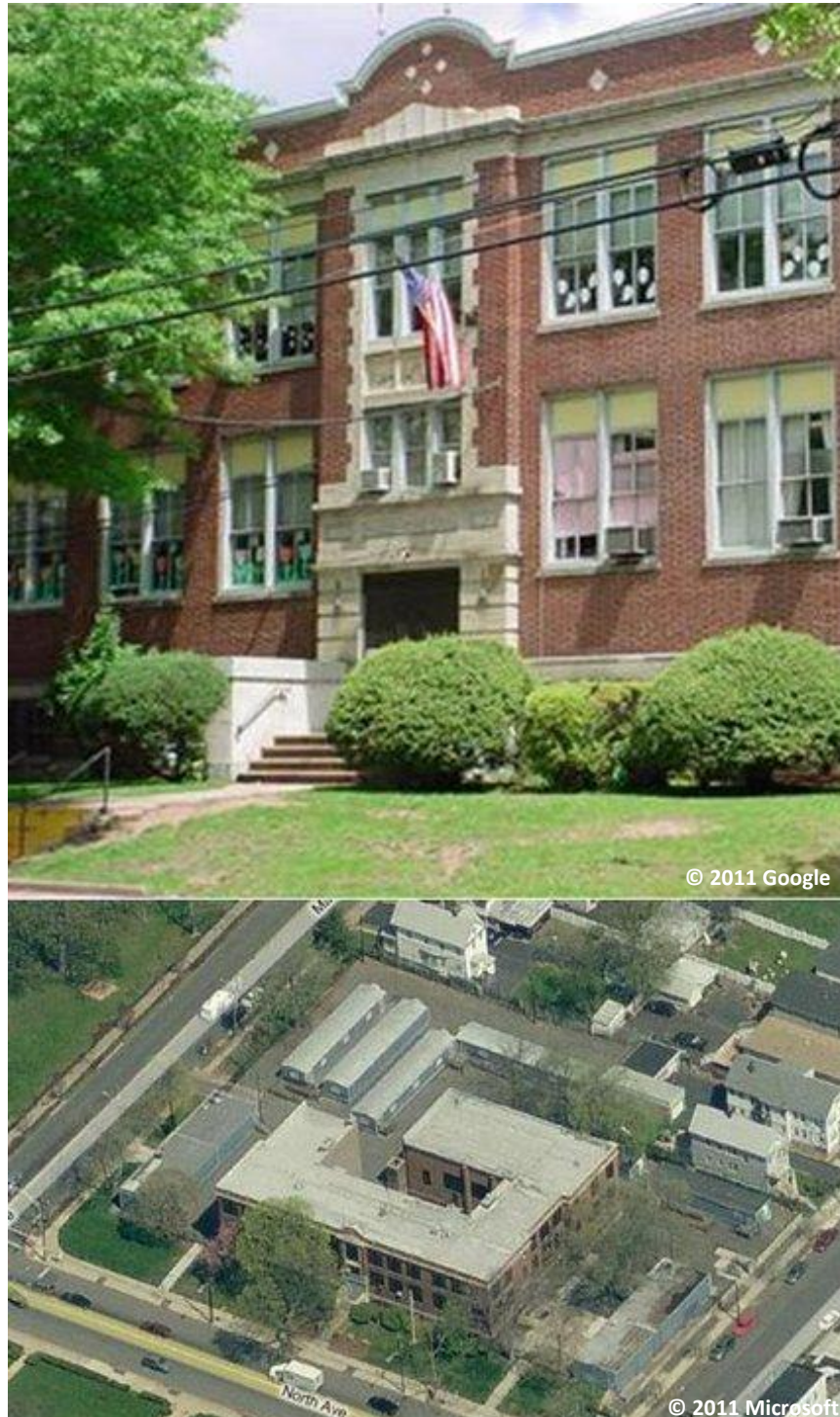
Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 was built in 1915 on Grove St. at Murray St., in response to the population growth of the Elmora section. The three-story building has fine architectural details at the main entrance and along the roofline. The architect was G. Godfrey Poggi, Elizabeth's premier school architect who also designed Battin High School, Grover Cleveland Junior High School and school nos. 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17. Two additions have been made to this school since it was built. It now has 800 students in grades K-8.



Christopher Columbus School No. 15 on Third Ave.

Christopher Columbus School No. 15 is located at 511 Third Ave. at South Fifth St. It was built in 1917 in response to Elizabeth's surging population. In 1924 there was an addition of eleven new classrooms and a gymnasium/auditorium facility. Frank Grote Jr. was principal in 1959. Today the school has 681 students in pre-kindergarten to fifth grade.

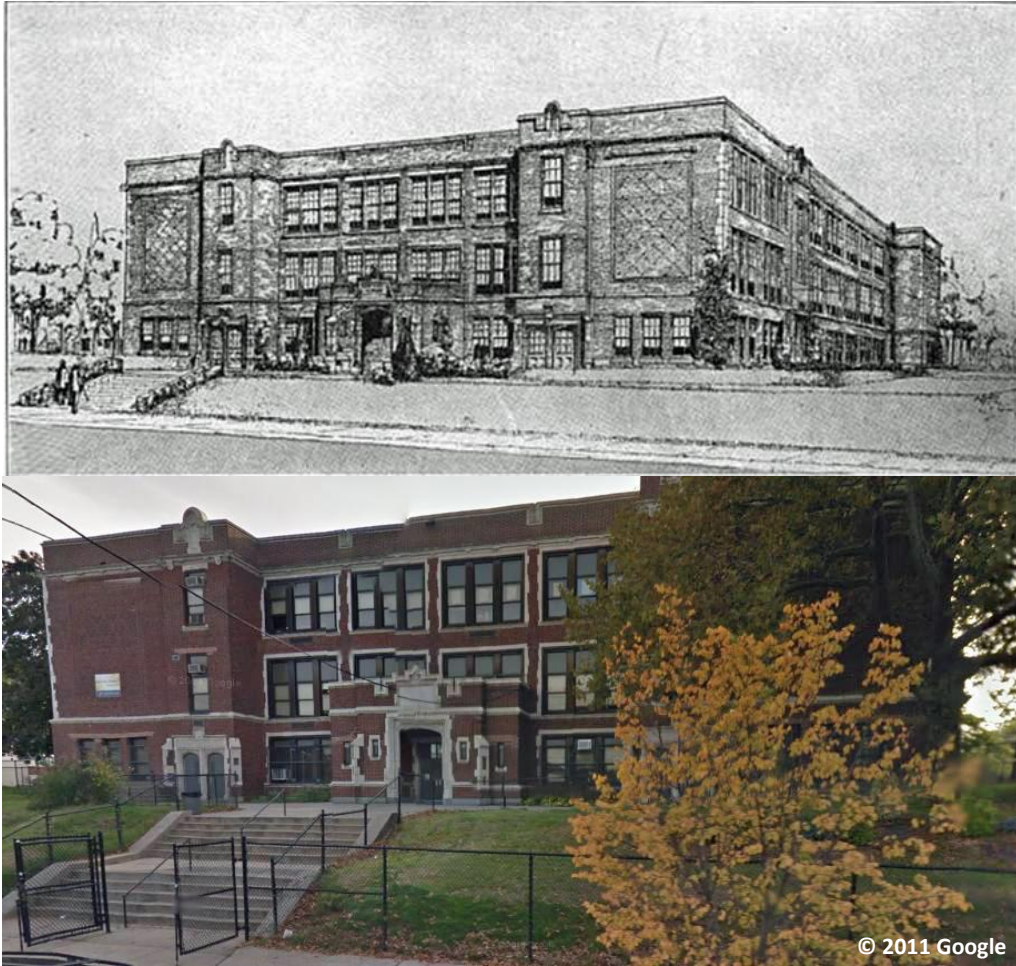
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Madison-Monroe School No. 16 on North Ave.

Madison-Monroe School No. 16 was built in 1916 at North Ave. between Madison and Monroe Avenues. The top photo shows some of the fine architectural details on the front of the school. Schools built in this era, including Battin High School and Grover Cleveland Jr. High School, had more design and artistic flourishes compared to earlier schools. The first principal of this school was May B. De Raismess who served 1916-1935. She died in 1937. The school was expanded in 1948 and modular classrooms were added more recently to accommodate the growing student population, now over 500.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School on Bayway Ave.

Bayway School No. 17 was built in 1920 at 650 Bayway Ave. The top image is the plan of architect C. Godfrey Poggi. This design reflects the collegiate style. Note the decorative use of terra cotta to accent the brick. The school was later named Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School. William F. Halloran, a graduate of Columbia University, became the principal in 1923. More recently the school was renamed Roosevelt Middle School.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



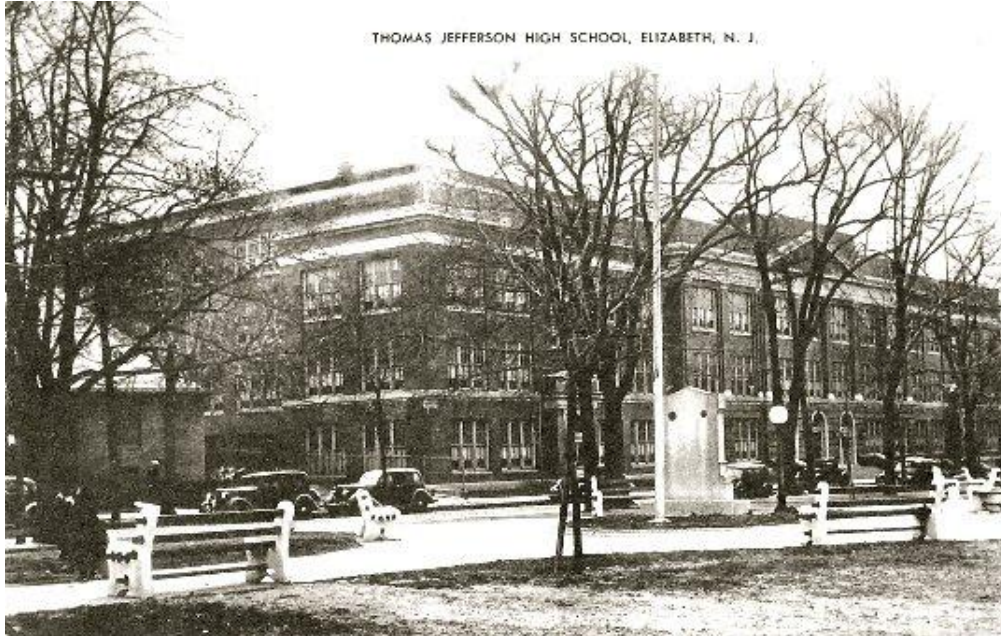
Grover Cleveland Junior High School is from Loomis St.

This 1950s view of Grover Cleveland Junior High School is from Loomis St. at the corner of Second Ave. The sprawling school, occupying a city block, was built in 1923. The architect was C. Godfrey Poggi who designed other Elizabeth schools including Battin High School, Roosevelt Junior High School, and the Elmora School.

The first principal, named in 1924, was Joseph A. O'Brien, a Seton Hall graduate who was previously principal of Continental School 3. O'Brien obtained a law degree and was active in Democratic politics, running twice for Mayor in the 1930s. O'Brien died in 1942 and the recreation field across the street from School 3 was named in his honor.

I went to Cleveland for seventh grade in 1956. There were some very capable teachers back then, including Thomas Highsmith (geography), Mr. Flynn (history) and Lee Gaskins (art). I also enjoyed the wood shop and the metal shop where one of our projects was making a ring using a lathe.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



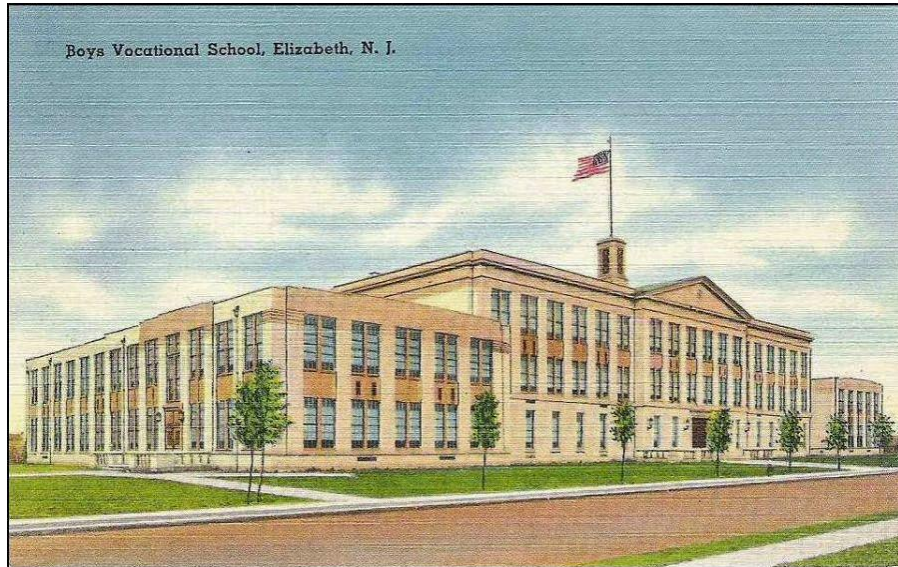
Thomas Jefferson High School at Scott Park

Thomas Jefferson High School opened in 1929 as an all boys school. Battin High School then changed from a coed to an all girls school. The separation of the sexes remained until the new Elizabeth High School opened in 1977. Thomas Jefferson High School is now called the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. The Frank J. Cicarell Academy, named after a notable educator and coach, will be constructed nearby.



Elizabeth High School on Pearl St. 2011. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Thomas A. Edison High School on Summer St.

The Thomas A. Edison High School was built in 1935 on Summer St. as a vocational high school for boys. Girls were admitted later. The school is now known as the Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

6. Churches



Left: First Presbyterian Church on Broad St. 1908. Right: 2013 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The congregation was organized in 1666 and the first church in Elizabeth was built here. It was a simple building of wood replaced by another structure in 1724. This was burned in 1780 by British soldiers after their defeat at the Battle of Springfield. It was being used by the colonists as a hospital. The present structure of brick and sandstone was completed in 1789, with a spire added a few years later. The building has been enlarged several times by additions in the rear.

The pastors have included notable men such as the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson who served 38 years and was a founder of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. The Rev. James Caldwell, the "soldier parson", showed courage and leadership in the Revolutionary War.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



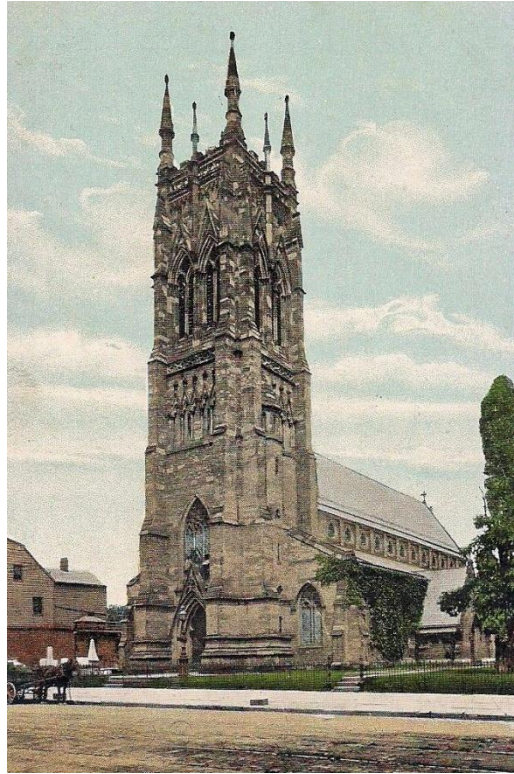
Tornado in 1899 Destroyed Steeple of First Presbyterian Church

A tornado roared through the center of the city on the afternoon of August 3, 1899, damaging churches, businesses and homes. The track was estimated at 1,000 feet wide. One of the first buildings hit was the historic First Presbyterian Church. The spire was snapped off just above the clock, falling across the lawn and burial ground of the early settlers. Uprooted trees dragged bones to the surface. The debris covered the trolley tracks on Broad St.

A fire in 1946 destroyed the steeple and much of the interior, but the church was fully restored. The adjoining cemetery contains over 2,000 graves including the forefathers of the city, with notable names such as Dickinson, Caldwell, Barber, Dayton, Ogden, Crane, Boudinot, Magie, Hetfield, Arnett and Kollock.

The First Presbyterian Church remains in use today and is an iconic image of Elizabeth's historic legacy.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. John's Church Early 1900s

The first Episcopal services in Elizabethtown were held in 1703. The cornerstone of a brick church known as St. John's Church was laid in 1706. The original church remained until 1859 when it was replaced by the present structure reflecting 14th century Gothic architecture. The tower is regarded as one of the most beautiful in the country. St. John's remains in use to this day.



St. John's Church Cemetery. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

St. John's Church cemetery has the graves of many notable Elizabeth families, including names such as Townley, Hampton, DeHart, Williamson, Chetwood, Thomas and Kean.

Arnold Samuelsen added a quote from the 1951 Elizabeth Daily Journal: "A pew in St. John's Church occupied by General and Mrs. Scott can be identified because it was extended in front to make room for the general's ample proportions. Older members of St. John's Church have described how General Scott 'clanked' down the aisle with sword and full military regalia."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Old Session House on Dickinson St.

The Old Session House was built as a lecture room by the First Presbyterian Church in 1813 on Session House Lane, later known as Washington St. and now Dickinson St. The Second Presbyterian Church used the building as a sanctuary in 1820 until the church on East Jersey St. was finished in 1822. The Siloam Presbyterian Church took over the building in 1867. It later merged with the Hope Presbyterian Church on Spring St. to become the Siloam Hope Presbyterian Church. Today's view shows the Old Session House is now a Hispanic church called Igreja Assembleia De Deus.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



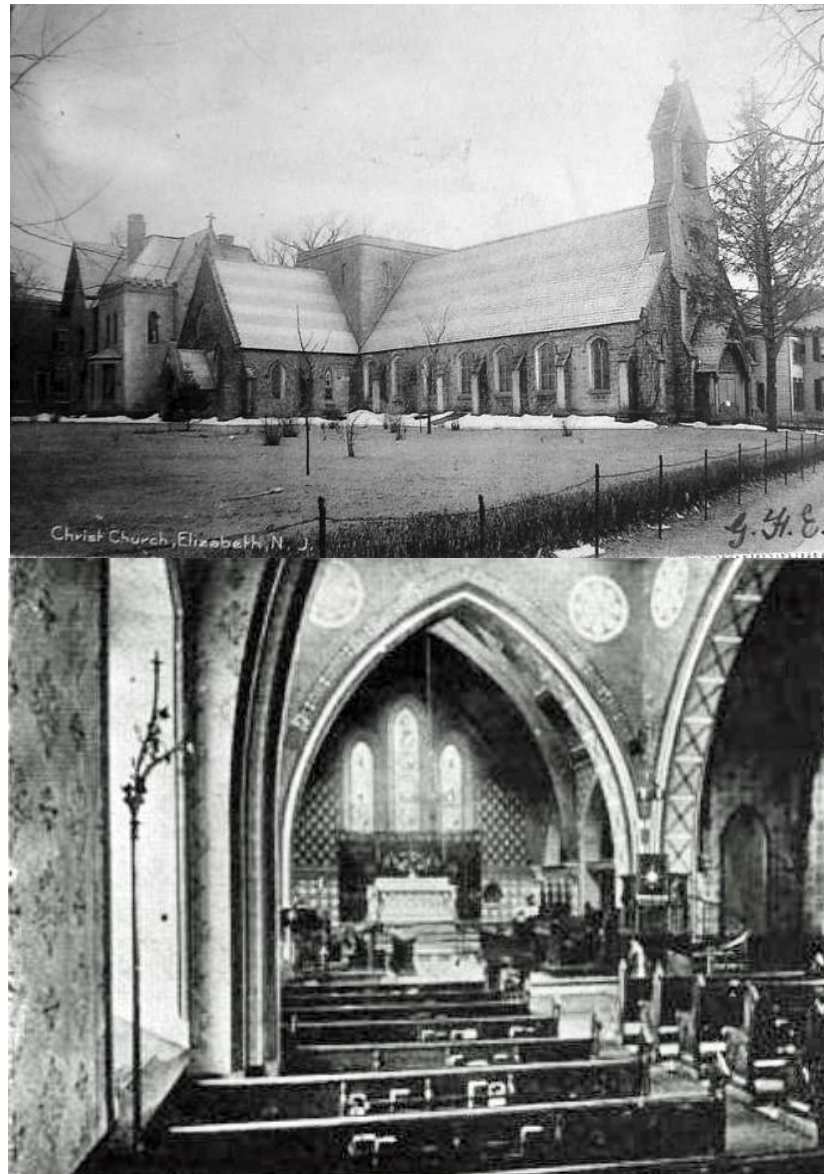
Second Presbyterian Church on East Jersey St.

The Second Presbyterian Church, 1161 East Jersey St., is seen in the top photo dating before 1889. The front of the church was later remodeled as shown in today's view. The church was formed in 1820 by forty members of the First Presbyterian Church on Broad St. Rev. David Magie was named pastor and the church was erected in 1821. Dr. Magie was pastor from 1820 until 1865. Rev. Dr. W. C. Roberts, associate pastor with Dr. Magie, succeeded him, and remained until 1866, when he resigned to become pastor of the new Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Second Presbyterian Church has the classic meetinghouse design from pre-Revolutionary times. In the 1890s, an auditorium was erected at the rear, with three tiers of small classrooms opening onto an amphitheater, with elaborate woodwork and glasswork. The church remains in use today and is in excellent condition.

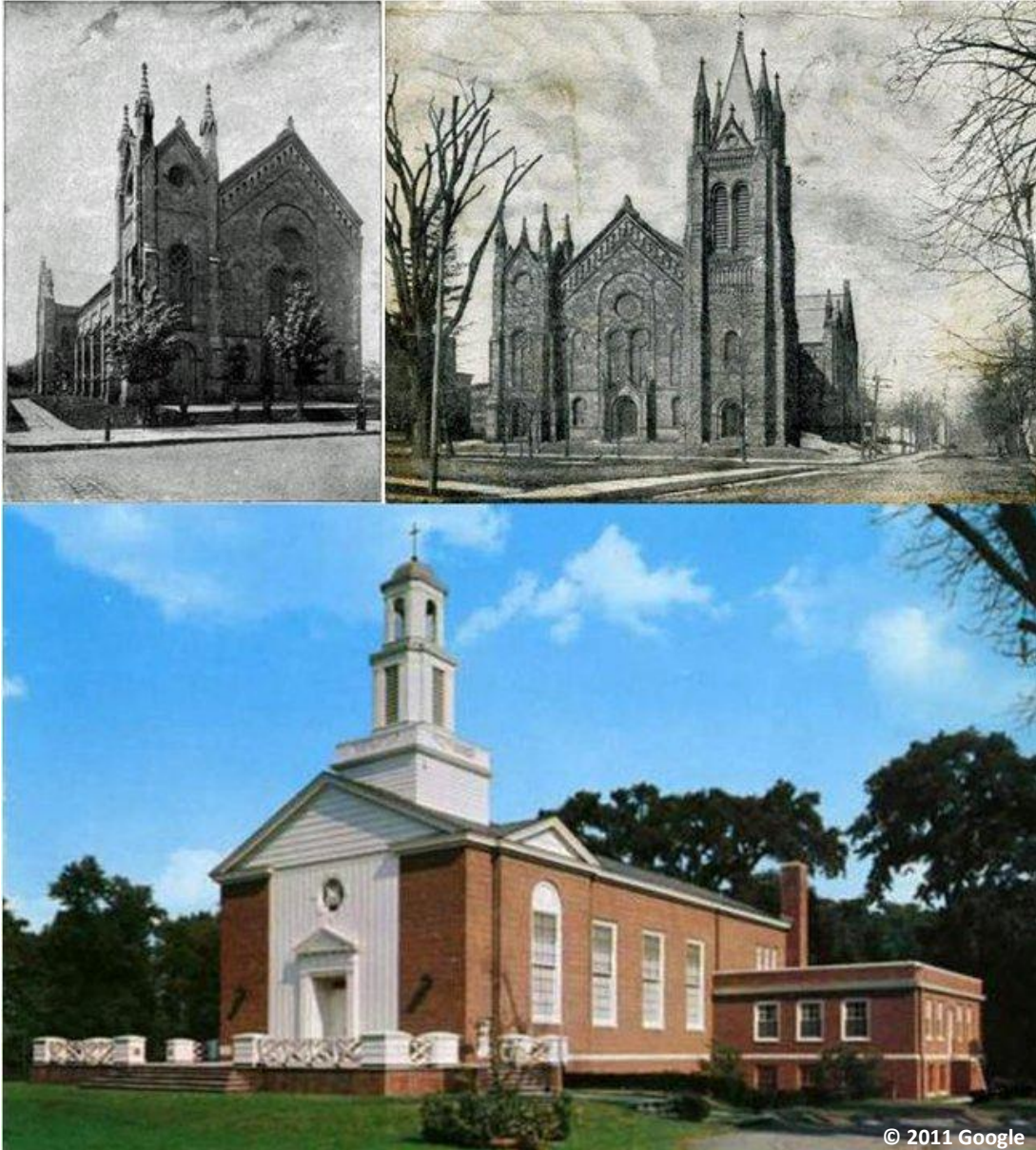
The home on the left in the vintage photo was located at 1165 East Jersey St. It was occupied in the early 1900s by Dr. Frederick R. Bailey. Bailey graduated from Princeton in 1892 and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1895. Bailey died in 1923. The home was razed and replaced with a commercial building.



Christ Church on East Scott Place

Christ (Episcopal) Church was established in 1853 at the corner of East Jersey St. and East Scott Place. The 1906 postcard shows a Gothic facade and an adjoining Gothic stone rectory. The interior view dates to 1889. The church was destroyed by fire on January 16, 1987.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

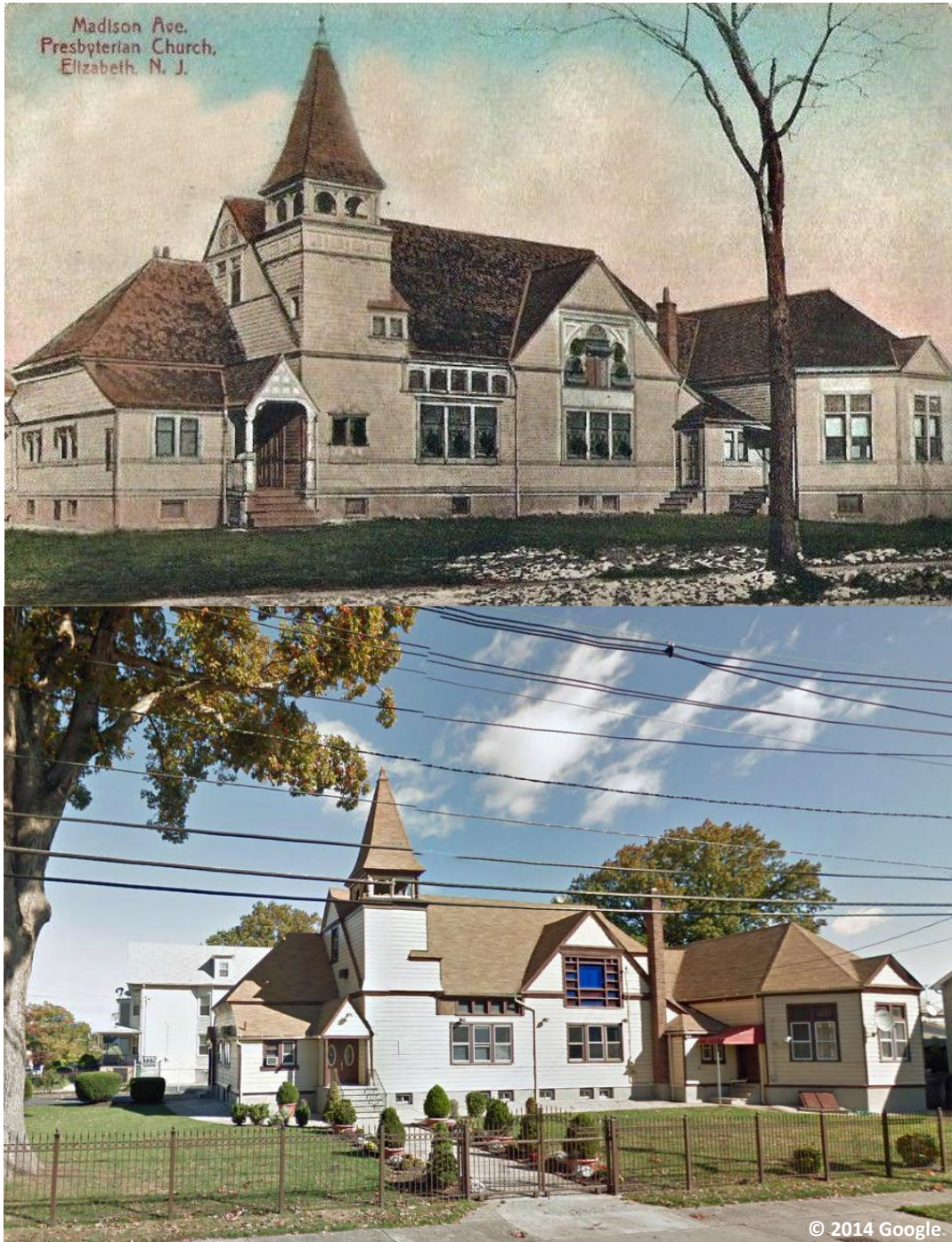


Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Westminster Presbyterian Church was erected 1866-1867 at the corner of Westminster Ave. and Prince St. to accommodate the growing population in north Elizabeth. The massive stone building represented the Norman style of architecture. The church had seating capacity of 1100. The first pastor was Rev. William C. Roberts.

The photo at top left, taken in 1889, shows the church with only one tower. A second taller tower was added later as seen in the 1907 photo at top right. The church was destroyed by fire in 1944 and rebuilt at North and Salem Avenues in 1949.

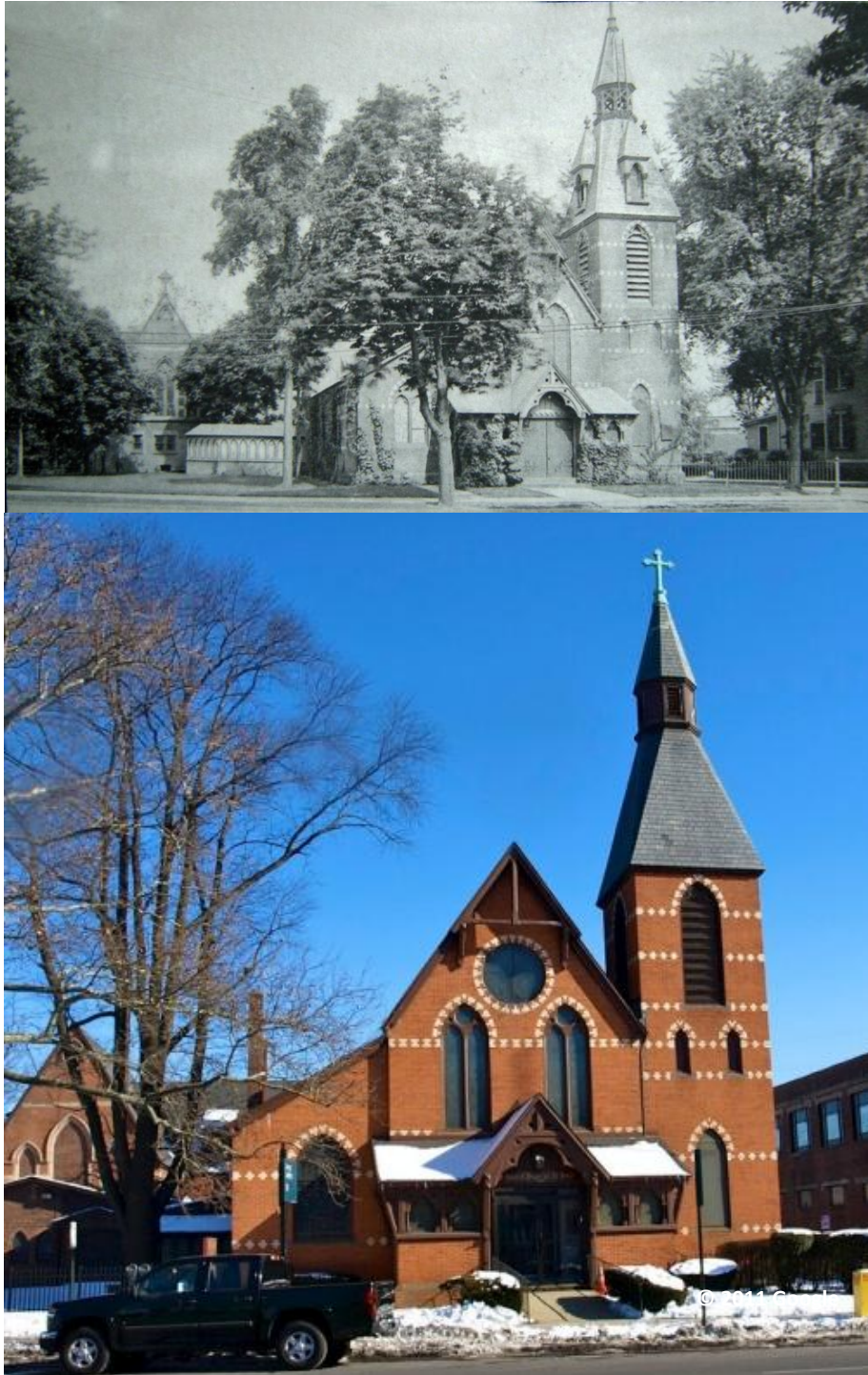
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church

The Madison Avenue Presbyterian church was erected in 1884 at Madison and Fairmount Avenues. This is a wood frame building in the Queen Anne style with a bell tower and bold roof lines. The church is now the Iglesia Adventista del Sabado Dia, maintained in excellent condition.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Trinity Episcopal Church on North Broad St. 1907. 2011 Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

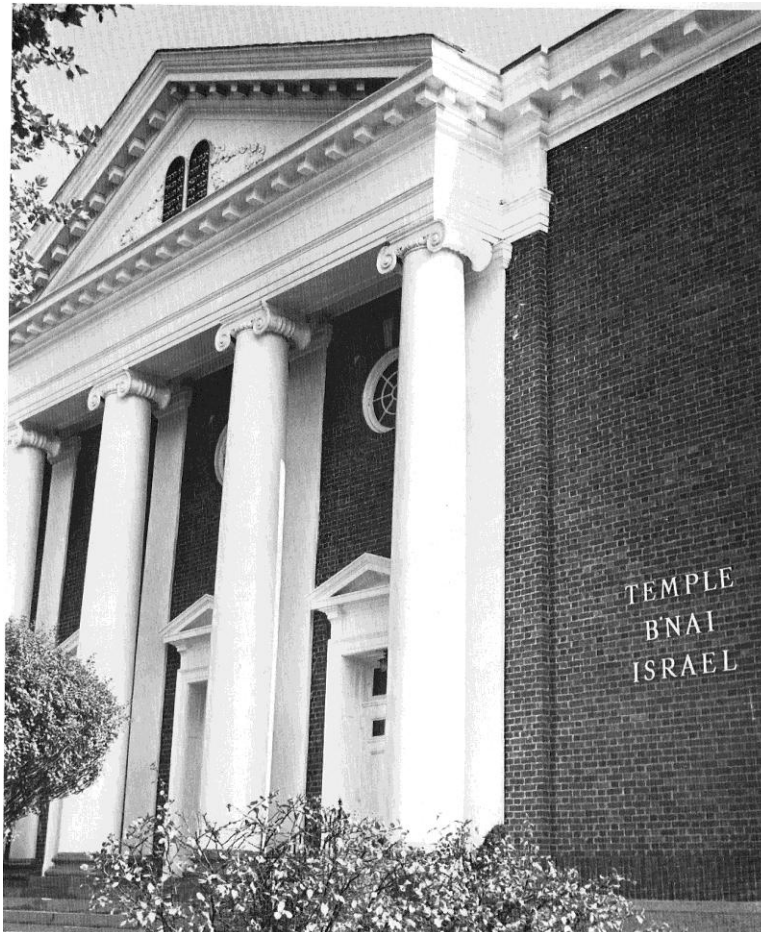
The Trinity Episcopal Church, at North Broad and Chestnut Streets, started as a chapel in 1866. The church was completed in 1871. It was designed by Richard Upjohn, leading architect of the Gothic Revival style, who was noted for designing Trinity Church in New York and Grace Church in Newark.

The church is now known as St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Interior of Original B'nai Israel Synagogue 1907



Temple B'nai Israel on East Jersey St. 1977

In 1857 prominent Elizabeth businessman Mayer Southeimer held a meeting with Jewish men in his home at 119 Broad St. to form a conservative temple. Congregation B'nai Israel was organized in 1882 and a synagogue was erected on East Jersey St., near Reid St., in 1883. H.M. Levy was the Rabbi. A group of forty men from the congregation formed a YMHA in 1896. A new synagogue was built in 1923, at a cost of \$200,000, at the corner of

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

East Jersey and Spring Streets (bottom photo). The synagogue closed in 1992 when a merger took place with congregation of the same name in Millburn. The building was later demolished and replaced with a building housing the Salvation Army.

The father of Michael Chertoff, former Secretary of Homeland Security, was Rabbi Gershon Baruch Chertoff, at one time leader of the B'nai Israel Congregation in Elizabeth.



Holshe Yosher Synagogue on South Park St. Photo: Turner and Koles, Images of America: Elizabeth, 1996

The Holche Yosher Synagogue was established at 449 South Park St. in 1889. By 1922, South Park St. was also the location of the Beth Israel Synagogue at the corner of Fourth St. Around the corner at 408 Court St. was the United Hebrew Charity Association building that provided social services.

In 1882 there were only 25 Jewish families in Elizabeth, mainly from Germany. The immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe and Russia increased the Jewish population to 550 families in 1904. Many worked at Singer and other factories in Elizabethport, while others became successful businessmen and retail store owners. There were three Jewish physicians and four Jewish lawyers at the time.

Eventually many of the Jewish owned businesses moved to Broad St. and Elmora Ave., with Jewish residents of Elizabethport moving to the Elmora, Westminister and North Elizabeth sections. The Jewish Educational Center (JEC) established a religious and educational complex on Elmora Ave. in the 1940s that became the focus of the Jewish community of Elizabeth.

The historic Holche Yosher Synagogue was razed in a massive redevelopment project that began in 1966. The multi-block area bounded by Broadway, Fourth, Fifth and Bond Streets was cleared for redevelopment. By 1987, the Papetti Egg Products plant and other commercial warehouses occupied the site.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Liberty Hall was a meeting place in Elizabethport that became one of the first community centers for the city's Jewish population in 1897. The wood frame building was located at 408 Court St. near Fourth St. It appears on the 1903 Sanborn map as the Hebrew Free Library, with an amusement hall on the second and third floors.

There were about 1,200 Jewish families living in Elizabeth in 1915 with many in Elizabethport. In the 1922 Sanborn map the building is titled "United Hebrew Charity Association, School and Assembly Rooms".

The building was razed for construction of the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950.



Congregation Adath Jeshurun on Murray St. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

The oldest operating synagogue in Elizabeth is the Congregation Adath Jeshurun, established in 1921. The congregation first worshipped in the YM-YWHA building on East Jersey St. Permanent quarters were obtained in 1927, when the synagogue's first president, Henry P. Nelson, donated a house and land at 200 Murray St. at Chilton St. The building was remodeled in the 1950s and the Congregation remains active today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elizabeth Rescue Mission on Broadway

The Elizabeth Rescue Mission and Woodyard was founded in 1894 on First St. The organization provided transients with food, shelter and the opportunity for a job in the adjoining woodyard. In 1910 William L. Ralston of Pittsburgh wandered into Elizabeth down on his luck. Ralston was broke and a physical wreck from drinking. The superintendent of the Mission, Howard T. Scheckler, took Ralston in and gave him a job in the woodyard.

A year later, Ralston said he inherited \$300,000 upon the death of his wealthy aunt. He pledged \$50,000 to the Mission, equivalent to \$1.2 million today. Ralston said "I didn't have any place to sleep the first night, but on the second I learned of the Rescue Mission, and decided to go there. I shall never forget the way that Mr. Scheckler greeted me. From that moment there seemed to be a new something in me."

But this good story of generosity ended in a 1913 news article that William L. Ralston, who now claimed to be manager of the Salvation Army in Hempstead, Long Island, swindled a man of an \$850 loan. He told the man he was inheriting \$70 million from his father and could easily repay him. Instead he disappeared with the \$850.

There is no evidence the Elizabeth Rescue Mission ever received the \$50,000 pledge. Most of its funding came from the sale of salvaged wood and small donations from Elizabeth residents.

By 1918, the Elizabeth Rescue Mission had moved to a two-story brick building at 128 Broadway, shown in today's view. Today the building is used by the Greater Faith Temple.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Howard T. Scheckler, a Methodist clergyman and native of Coaldale, Pa., served as superintendent of the Elizabeth Rescue Mission for 46 years, ending with his death, at age 78, Aug 17, 1948. In his first quarter century as head of the mission (1902 to 1927), he spent much of his time visiting seamen and their families living aboard vessels in Staten Island Sound, according to his obituary in the New York Times. He lived at 1046 Julia St. At one time he also was minister of Grier Ave. Chapel, a mission of one of the Methodist churches in the city. The Elizabeth Rescue Mission is not listed in city directories after Rev. Scheckler's death. Cabinet maker Elliott A. Reason had his business at 128 Broadway in the 1950's."

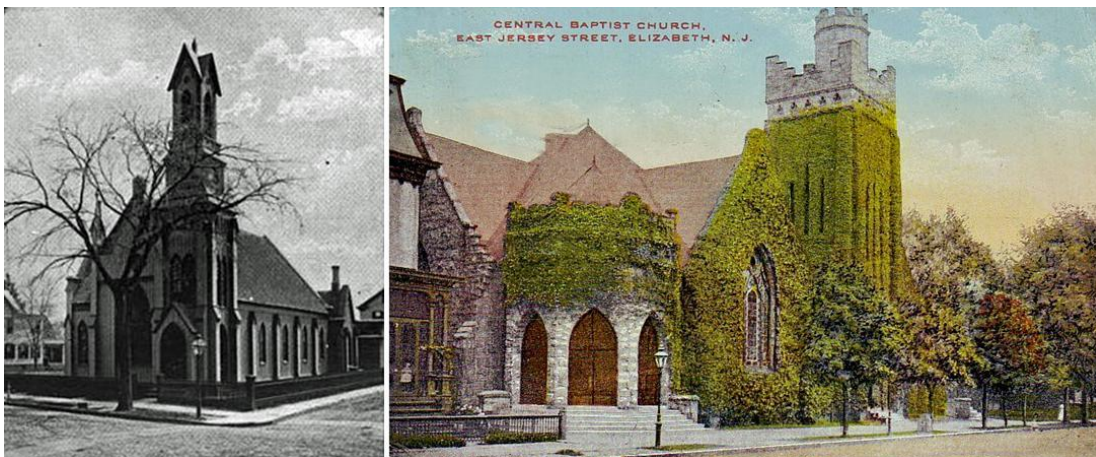
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First Baptist Church on Union Ave.

The early settlers of Elizabeth were largely Presbyterians and Episcopalians, and the construction of their churches kept pace with the general population growth. The Baptist religion had a slower start until 1842 when Elkauah Drake, a member of the church at Mount Bethel, moved to Elizabeth. He gathered the few Baptists together and established a "meeting" in the "Select School" on Union Street. In 1843 a council from eight churches met in the Select School and recognized the "First Baptist Church of Elizabeth." The Select School was purchased, remodeled and dedicated in 1843. The Society was formed in 1845 and incorporated in 1848. The first pastor was Rev. Charles Cox. The first baptism by immersion occurred in the Elizabeth River, when Pastor Cox baptized his wife and Miss Ann Holton.

In 1868 Rev. T. A. K. Gessler led the construction of the present church at the corner of Union Avenue and Prince Street. The beautiful Romanesque Revival building was erected in 1868-1870 at a cost of about \$64,000, equivalent to \$1.1 million today. The architect was Amos Bicknell of Elizabeth. The Second Empire style domed roof on the main tower and the tiered pinnacle on the smaller tower were later removed. But today's view show the church essentially unchanged from the 1910 photo.



Central Baptist Church on East Jersey St.

The Central Baptist Church was organized in 1877 and subsequently built a small church at the corner of East Jersey St. and Jefferson Ave., shown in the 1889 photo at left. In 1899 a fine stone church, with castle-like

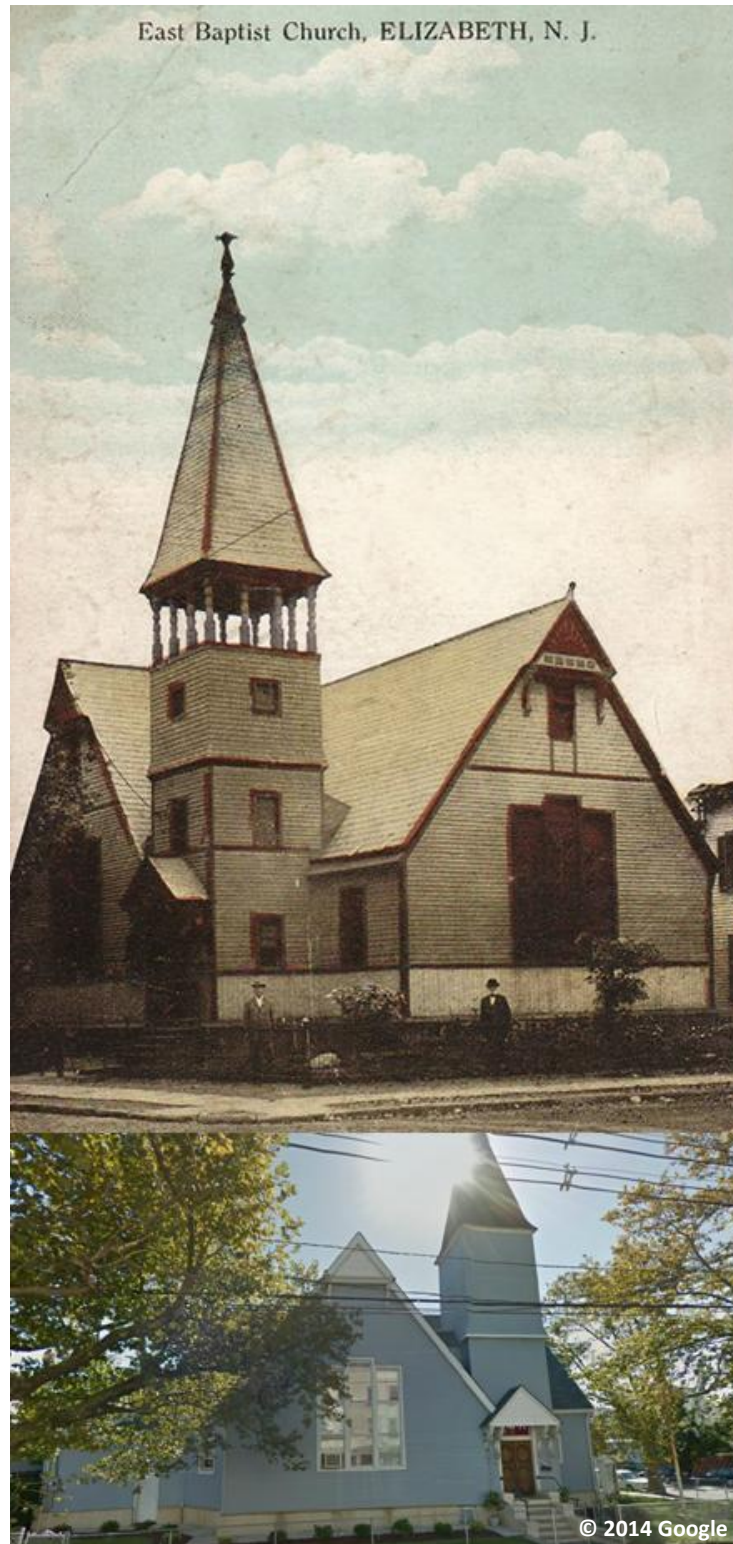
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

architecture, was built on East Jersey St. between Jefferson and Madison Avenues (early 1900s postcard at right). The architects were Woodruff Leeming and W. Gedney Beatty. Construction cost \$40,000, equivalent to \$1.1 million today.

In August 1899, a tornado roared through the central business district, damaging businesses and churches including the Central Baptist Church. The spire was damaged and had to be rebuilt.

The Central Baptist Church remains active today with a largely Hispanic congregation. The Whyman Parish House is at 705 Newark Ave. and is a historic landmark, although the condition has deteriorated recently. This property has been placed for sale.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



East Baptist Church on Third St.

Prior to 1871 there were only a few families of the Baptist faith in Elizabethport. Interest in the Baptist faith grew through prayer meetings held weekly from house to house. In 1871 Peter B. Amory purchased a small building, which he moved to Third St., that was dedicated as a Baptist mission. This church was disbanded in 1879.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

In 1880 the East Baptist Church was organized. A new church building was erected in 1882 by Rev. Theron Outwater on the corner of Third and Franklin Streets, shown in the top photo. The interior is of amphitheatre form with capacity for about 500 in the main auditorium and lecture room.

Today the church is the Iglesia Nueva Vida and the building is in excellent condition with nicely maintained grounds.



Third Presbyterian Church on Scott Place 1889. Today's Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

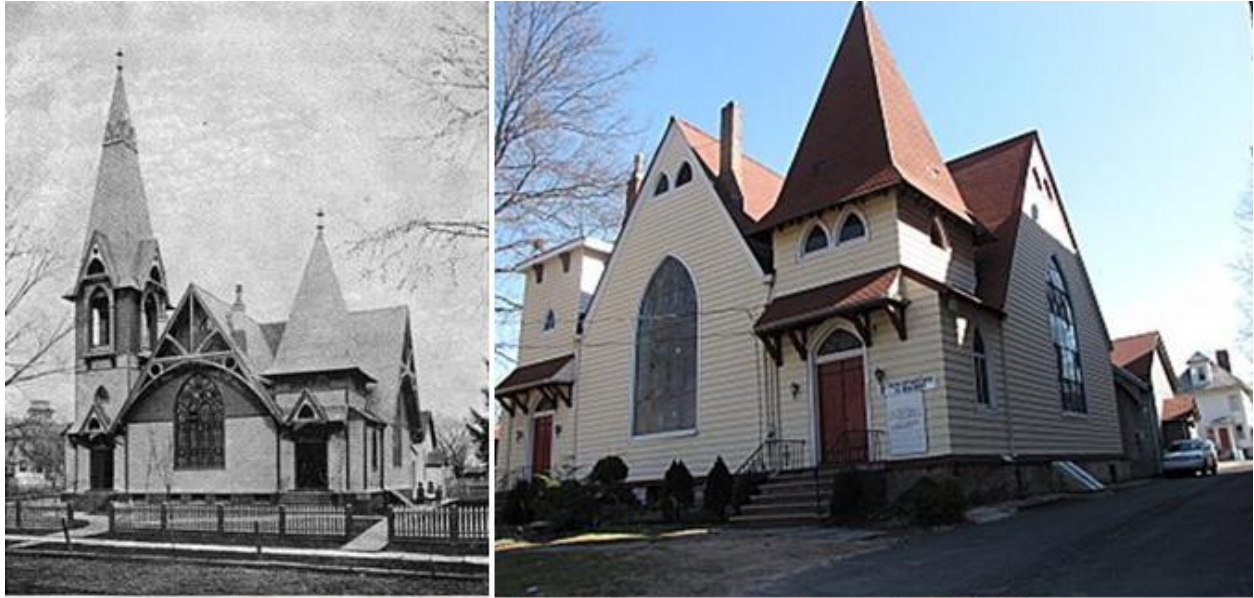
The Third Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Scott Place and East Jersey St., was organized in 1851 by 75 members of the First and Second Presbyterian Churches. The cornerstone was laid in 1852 and the church was dedicated in 1855. The church has a traditional style, resembling the First Presbyterian Church on Broad St. However the Georgian details were replaced with arched windows and decorative arcades of the Italianate style popular in that era. The large church had a seating capacity of 1,000. A Victorian style parsonage was erected next door along with a two-story building in the rear for meetings and Sunday school.

A tornado swept over Elizabeth in August 1899. The storm's path, three blocks wide, came from the southwest and passed northeast. The violent winds blew the steeples off the First Presbyterian, Third Presbyterian and Central Baptist churches.

The church closed when the congregation merged with the Westminster Presbyterian Church on North Ave.

Arnold Samuelsen: "The husband-wife team of Marlow Ferguson, actor and director, and Karon Sue Semones, a playwright and producer, of New York bought the former Third Presbyterian Church about 1993 and converted the chapel into a theater and built 13 apartments in the rear of the church for rental income. The Elizabeth Playhouse operated from 1995 to 2004, when the couple moved to Roanoke, Va., where they now own Star City Playhouse."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

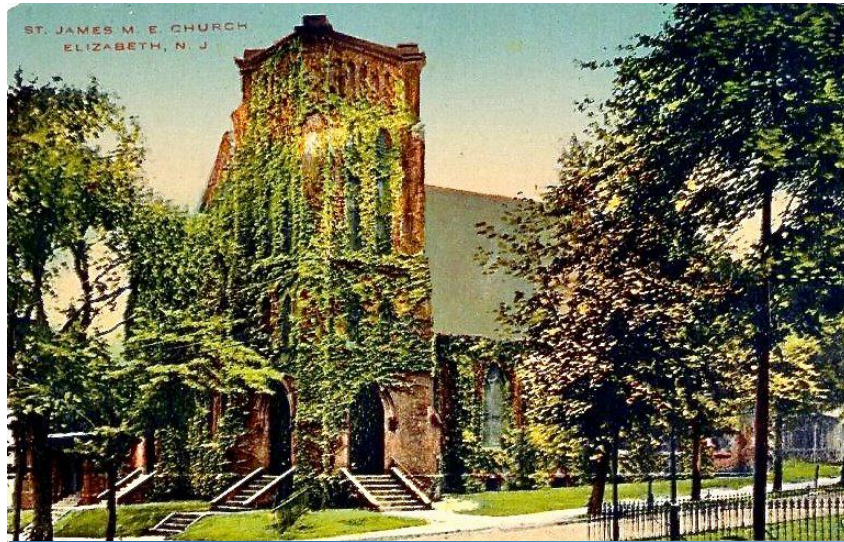


Park Methodist Episcopal Church on Madison Ave. 1889

The Park Methodist Episcopal Church (top left photo of 1889), located at 473 Madison Ave. opposite Jefferson Park, was formed by members of the former St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church. A chapel was built in 1875 followed by a church in 1878. The ornate structure had an amphitheater type auditorium, natural wood trim and stained glass windows.

The building survives today, minus the steeple. It had been used by the CMI Community Center but was put up for sale recently.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. James M.E. Church on South Broad St.

Methodism in Elizabeth dates from 1785 when Bishop Asbury preached the first sermon, possibly in the house of Jonathan Morrell on Elizabeth Ave. Mrs. Morrell and her son Thomas, later known as "Father Morrell" were principal supporters of the young society. Father Morrell died in 1838 at age 91. He had served during the Revolution as major of the Fourth New Jersey Regiment. An ardent patriot, he espoused the cause of independence and resigned his commission only when disabled by severe wounds. For many years he was a traveling preacher and stationed at churches in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

A temporary church building known as the "Tabernacle" was later replaced by an building on Elizabeth Ave. and Morrell St. called "Father Morrell's Church." In 1845 a substantial brick building was dedicated on Elizabeth Ave. near Broad St., later occupied by a printing establishment. This church was the parent society of the several Methodist organizations in this city. In 1859 a new enterprise was started on East Grand St. and continued until 1865, when some of its members, along with those from the old church in Elizabeth Ave, organized St. Paul's Church. After worshiping in the old Court House for several months, the new society purchased the property

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

formerly used by Trinity Episcopal Church, at the corner of East Jersey St. and Jefferson Ave., and maintained a congregation there for twelve years.

In 1875 it became apparent that the population growth of the city required another church in the northeastern section. An amicable division of the property and membership of St. Paul's was the result, and the new society known as the Park Church was recognized by the Conference in that year. In 1877 the remaining portion of St. Paul's joined with the Elizabeth Avenue Society and organized the St. James Methodist Episcopal Church, purchasing a church at the corner of South Broad and Pearl Streets. This church was built in 1867 as a Baptist church. The first pastor of the new church was Rev. James Montgomery.

An annex was built on South Broad St. in 1891, of bold and unusual design, not seen before in churches of that era. It served as the chapel and parsonage (on left of today's view).

It's interesting that the main building is once again a Baptist church, namely the Haitian Bethany Baptist Church. The Norman architecture is reflected in the castle-like steeple and the pronounced arched doorways.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First German Presbyterian Church on Third St.

The First German Presbyterian Church began as a congregation in 1875, led by Rev. John Rudolph in a rented hall at Third and Fulton Streets. In 1878 a new church was erected at the corner of Third St. and Broadway. Rev. Dr. W.C. Roberts preached the dedication ceremony in German and Rev. Dr. Kempshall in English. A parsonage was built in 1881 and later a parish hall, as seen in the above postcard dating to 1909.

During World War I, anti-German sentiment reduced the membership from 333 before the war to 118 in 1919. In 1927 land on Magie Avenue, between Keats and Shelley Avenues, was purchased for a new building in the fast growing Elmora section. The new church was dedicated in 1936 and called the Elmora Presbyterian Church. The old church became the First Baptist Institutional Church, which lasted just a few years. The building was auctioned off in 1931 for \$500. Today the site is occupied by the George Washington School No. 1, built in 1971 and the city's largest elementary school.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Emmanuel Pentecostal Church at East Jersey and Third Streets

The Emmanuel Pentecostal Church was established in 1936 by Rev. Rudolph Kalis and his wife Anna Kalis in the former People's Trust bank building at East Jersey and Third Streets. The bank had collapsed in the Great Depression.

The Emmanuel Pentecostal Church closed shortly after 2000. Today the building is used by the Church of God.



St. Adalbert Church on Third St.

The first Polish immigrants in Elizabeth arrived in the 1870s. They had to travel to churches in New York and Newark to hear Catholic services in Polish. The St. Adalbert Church was organized in 1905. A combination church/school building was built in 1906 at the corner of East Jersey and Third Streets. A rectory was built on East Jersey St. and a convent on Fulton St. In 1911 a school was built at Third and Fulton Streets.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

In 1990 three Catholic schools, St. Adalbert's, St. Patrick's, and St. Peter and Paul's, merged to overcome declining enrollment. The school (K-8) was called the Elizabethport Catholic School and was housed in the former St. Patrick's School. The Elizabethport Catholic School is now closed.



First Congregational Church on Third St. Now Site of St. Adalbert's Parish Hall

The First Congregational Church was built in 1865 at the corner of Third and Marshall Streets. It had a pipe organ at the side of the pulpit and seating for four hundred. The pews were free and everyone was welcome to attend. The Rev. Robert A. Tufft, the young pastor in 1889, preached fiery sermons. This postcard showing the church dates to about 1906.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

Years later the church building was demolished and replaced with the parish hall of St. Adalbert's Church, which remains in use today.



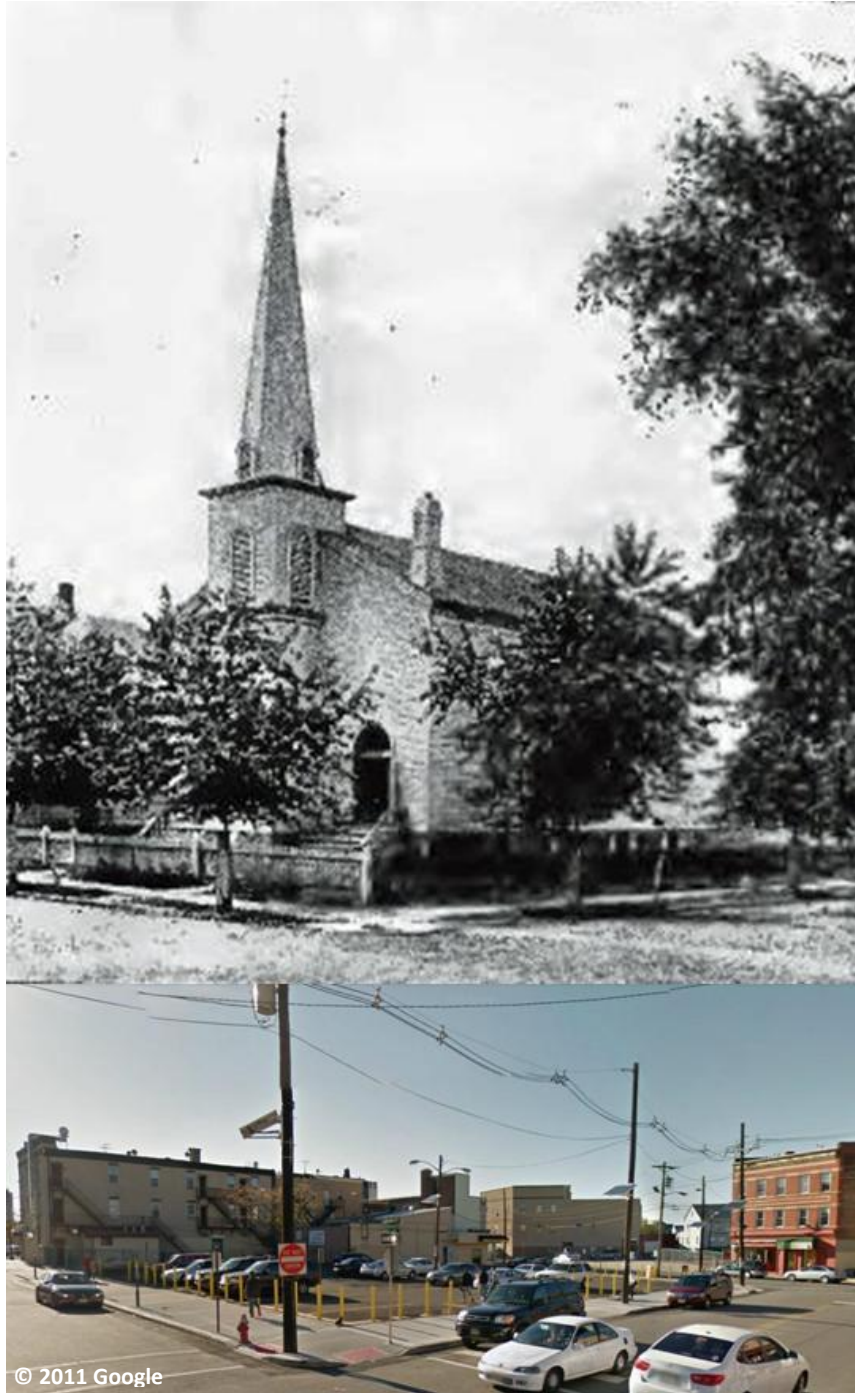
German Lutheran Church Became St. Mark's Lutheran Church on East Jersey St.

The German Lutheran Church, also known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, was established in 1858. The church was erected near Elizabeth Ave. at the corner of Cross and Port (now Bank) Streets in 1859. A school was built in 1860. The church was enlarged and a steeple with bell added in 1871. By 1889, the date of the top left photo, immigration from Germany caused the church to grow to 180 families. Services were held in German. A

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

parsonage was built next to the church in 1884 and a new school building added the next year. The parish school provided an German-English elementary education.

By the time of World War I, a larger church was built at 918 East Jersey St., opposite the Elizabeth General Hospital. This church later became St. Mark's Lutheran Church (bottom photo). Rev. Frederick Schott was pastor 1915-1942. Today the church is known as the Elizabeth Lutheran Church. The old church on Cross St. was demolished and the site is now a parking lot.



German Moravian Church at Seventh and Marshall Streets

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

The Moravian church was established in the early 1400s in the Czech province of Moravia. The founder was John Hus, a Catholic priest and professor at the University of Prague, who held that the Bible is the authority in matters of faith and life. He spoke out against the sale of papal indulgences and was burned at the stake in 1415. The church went underground for years and reemerged in Germany in the early 1700s. Missions were established in Europe and America.

The congregation of the German Moravian Church of Elizabeth was organized in 1863, at first meeting in a room at School 3. A church was erected in 1869 at the corner of Seventh and Marshall Streets. At the time the Union Square area had a large German population. Over the years, Germans moved to other areas of the city and to surrounding towns. During World War I, the church moved to 949 Lafayette St. at the corner of Reid St. Later the church moved to Union.

The original location on Seventh St. became the site of a parking lot after 1957.

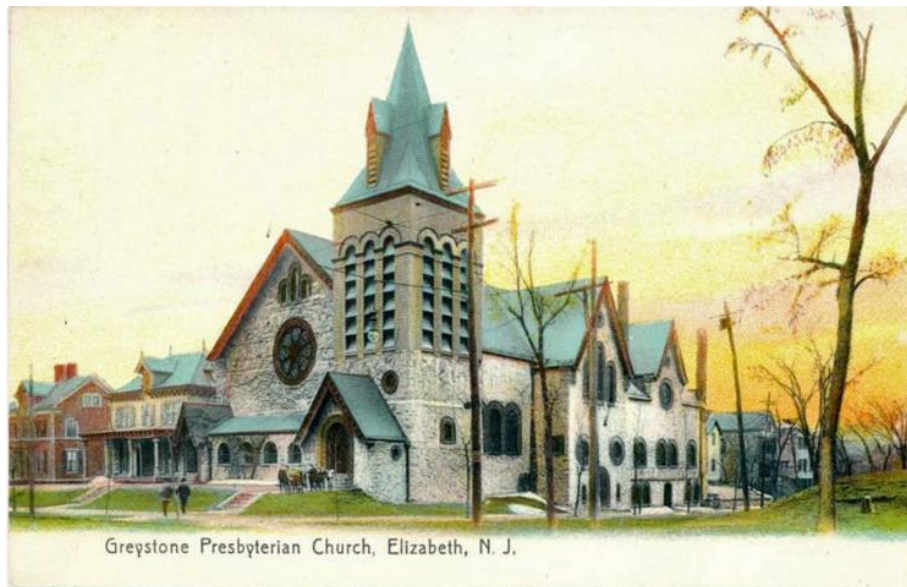


Evangelical Church of the Holy Trinity on Sixth St.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity began as a chapel in the early 1900s at the corner of Sixth and Franklin Streets. In 1912 the congregation built this Norman style church with the characteristic arched entrances. The builder, whose sign is in the doorway of the top photo, was John Lammerding. He lived at 1182 Magnolia Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

and his contracting company built homes, commercial and industrial buildings in the area. There was a large population of German immigrants in Elizabethport and Union Square at the time, so the services may have been in German. Today the church is the Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal Church, reflecting the shift to a Hispanic population.



Greystone Presbyterian Church on Elizabeth Ave.

A Congregational church formed in the Port in 1836 that became the Marshall Street Presbyterian Church in 1846. The name was changed to Greystone Presbyterian Church in 1896 when a new church of greystone was built at the corner of Elizabeth Ave. and Florida St. Funeral director August F. Schmidt was one of the leaders of the church.

The Greystone Presbyterian Church was destroyed by a fire in 1992 and the congregation now meets in the parsonage building onsite (at left of today's view).

In the 1880s Elizabeth, once known as the "City of Churches" had 35 churches; only 17 remain today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



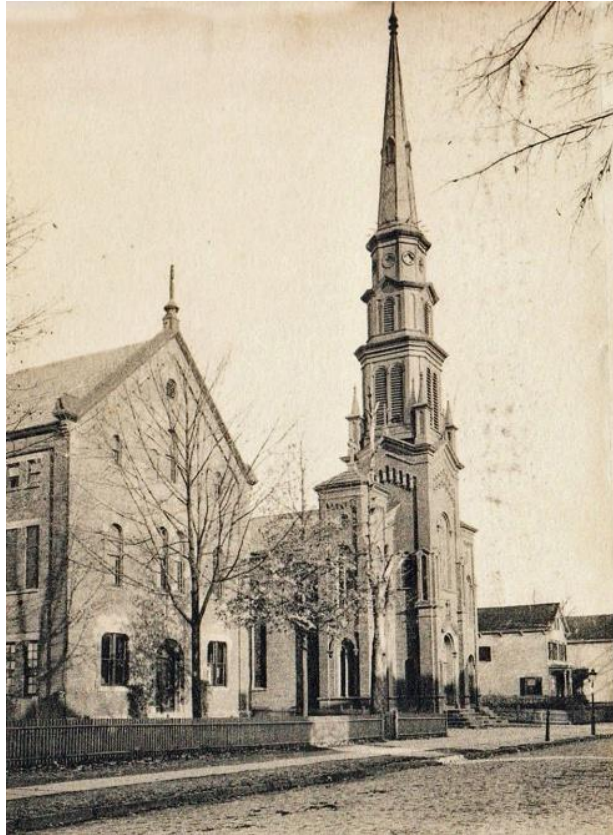
First Methodist Protestant Church on Fourth St.

The First Methodist Protestant Church was organized in 1891 when some trustees and members of the Fulton Street Methodist Episcopal Church seceded from the Newark Conference. The dispute was over the assignment of a new pastor. The Fulton Street Church, established in 1858, had the largest Methodist congregation in Elizabeth.

A new church was built in late 1891 at the corner of Fourth and Franklin Streets. The wood building was designed in the Queen Ann style and cost \$7,000, equivalent to \$167,000 today. The Rev. F.T. Benson of Baltimore was the first pastor.

The church eventually disbanded due to declining membership. The building was remodeled and today is the Case Deoracion Monte Sinai church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Mary's Church on Washington Ave. 1906.

St. Mary of the Assumption is the oldest Roman Catholic church in Elizabeth. Before 1844 the only services held were an occasional mass by a priest from Staten Island. On Palm Sunday 1844, a congregation of 25 members was established. Construction of the church on Washington Ave. began in 1845 and was not completed until 1862.



St. Mary's High School Established in 1930. 2012 Photo 2012 of Darren Bryden.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Michael's Church on Smith St.

Some German Catholics wanted to hear Mass in their native language. In 1849 a Redemptionist Father came from New York to preach and hear confessions in German. In 1852 twenty-five families founded a German parish called St. Michael's. They bought lots on Smith St. and built a frame church in 1853. The Rev. Henry Lemke, O.S.B., became pastor in 1860 and founded a school in 1861, which was held in a partitioned section of the church. He left in 1870 to establish the Sacred Heart Church on Spring St. The Rev. Albert von Schilgen was named pastor in 1870 and built an impressive stone church, in the Gothic style, on the corner of Smith and East Jersey Streets. A 179 ft. tall steeple was added in 1899.

A new rectory was built in 1882 and in 1885 a new school and house for the Sisters of Christian Charity were erected. Father Schilgen was still pastor when he died in 1901. A photo of the church, ca. 1911, is on the left. Today's photo on the right shows the entranceway has been modified and the original tall steeple removed.

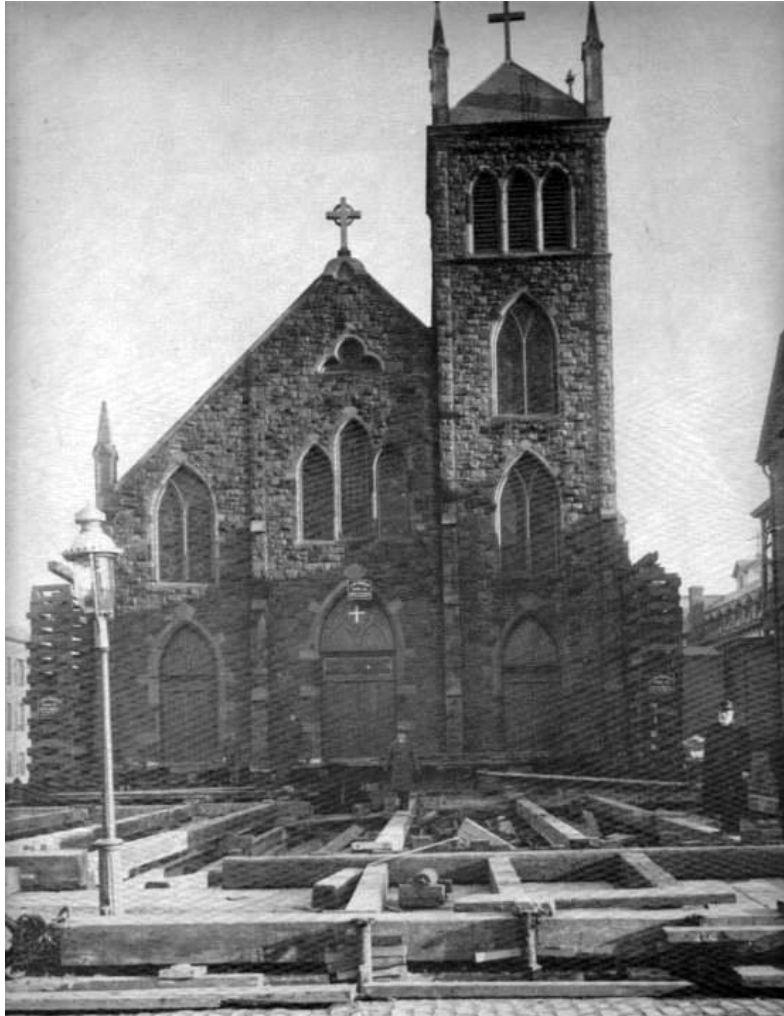
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Michael's School Now Day Care Center. Photo Courtesy of Darren Bryden.

St. Michael's Church has been renamed Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael's Catholic Church, after merging with the Holy Rosary Church on Elizabeth Ave., which was demolished. Both Holy Rosary and St. Michael's schools have been closed. The parish now has many Catholics from Spanish speaking Latin American countries and Haiti.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Sacred Heart Church on Spring St. 1928 and Today

The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church at 403 Spring St. was originally St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church in Elizabethport. St. Henry's parish was split off from St. Michael's in 1869. St. Henry's was named after its first pastor, Rev. Henry Lemke, O.S.B. (1796-1882), a native of Germany. Rev. Lemke purchased land at the corner of Magnolia Avenue and Spring Street in 1870 where a chapel was built.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

In 1871 the parish had 200 families and 188 students in a parochial school on Magnolia Ave. A new church was built of stone in the Gothic Revival style in 1888, and the name was changed to Sacred Heart. Although started by Germans, the church became known for its Irish congregation, with many living in the nearby Kereigh Head community. In 1899 a large brick grammar school was built on Bond St. directly across from the church.

In 1928 the widening of State Highway 25, later renamed U.S. Highway 1/9, required moving the church. In an extraordinary feat of engineering, the church was successfully moved 90 feet back from the road (top photo). Around the same time the Sacred Heart High School was established in the former St. Walburgh Convent behind the church.

In later years the church name changed again, to Our Lady of Fatima, reflecting the increased population of Portuguese in Elizabeth. Today both the grammar and high school are closed, with the high school demolished.



Sacred Heart School at Bond and Spring Streets is Closed

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Siloam Hope Presbyterian Church on Spring St. at Olive St.

The Siloam Presbyterian Church took over the old Sessions House building on Dickinson St. in 1867. It later merged with the Hope Presbyterian Church on Spring St. to become the Siloam Hope Presbyterian Church. The building shown in this photo was originally the Westminster Hope Memorial Church, built about 1919.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Patrick's Church on Court St.

The top postcard is a view of Jackson Park and the St. Patrick's Church buildings about 1910. The foundation for the present church was laid in 1887. The style is high Gothic and resembles the Cologne Cathedral. The view today shows the addition of the high school. The high school auditorium was once the old church, built in 1858. The high school is now closed but the church remains in use.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Anthony's Church at Centre St. and Third Ave.

The tall steeple of St. Anthony's Church, on the corner of Centre St. and Third Ave., has been an Elizabeth landmark for many years. The settling of Italian immigrants in Peterstown in the late 1890s led to the use of St. Michael's Chapel on Smith St. as a temporary church. In 1903 the German Methodist Church, built on this property in 1854 (top left photo of 1889), was acquired and converted to a Catholic church to serve the growing number of parishioners.

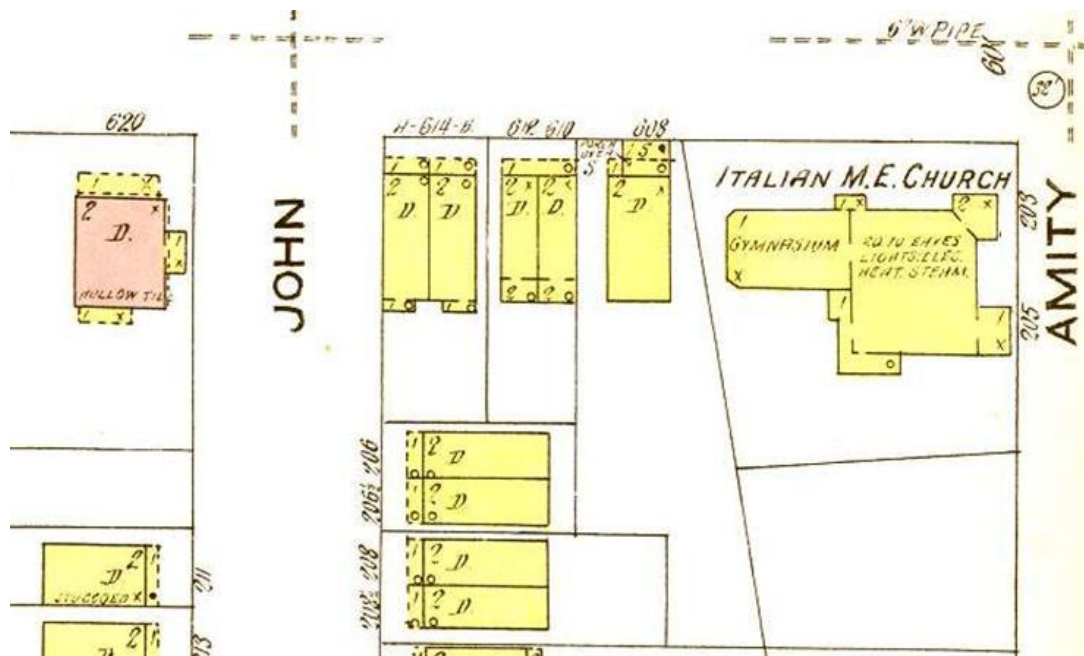
The new St. Anthony's Church was built in 1927 (top right drawing), with the old church converted into a Sunday School and social hall. The architect was Paul Cerrine and the builder was the Turtur Brothers. The architecture is a

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

fine adaption of the Italian Renaissance style. The rose windows are trimmed with Atlantic terra cotta. The windows are lighted on the inside so as to appear continually bathed with sunlight.

A house at 230 South St. became the first convent for the Salesian Sisters. St. Anthony's first parochial school began in 1953 in the remodeled Don Bosco Clubhouse. Fr. Dominic Battistello was pastor from 1953 to 1963 and led a major expansion program. Construction of a new school (bottom photo) began in 1955 and was completed in 1958. A new rectory was opened in 1962. The new Sisters' convent, built on nearby playground property acquired from the city, was opened in 1964.

The St. Anthony School recently merged with the Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary Elementary Schools in Elizabeth. The school is now named Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy.



Italian Methodist Episcopal Church on Amity St.

When we think of churches in Peterstown, St. Anthony's R.C. Church comes to mind. So it is surprising to find the Italian Methodist Episcopal Church at Amity St. and Second Ave. on this 1922 Sanborn map. There are other references to it under the name Holy Trinity Methodist Church, established in 1920 to serve Italian Methodists. There were about 10,000 Italians in Elizabeth at the time. In 1947 the pastor was Robert E. Corradini. A loaf of bread was distributed to each family at Sunday services. The church eventually closed and was razed in the early 1970s to make way for two new homes.

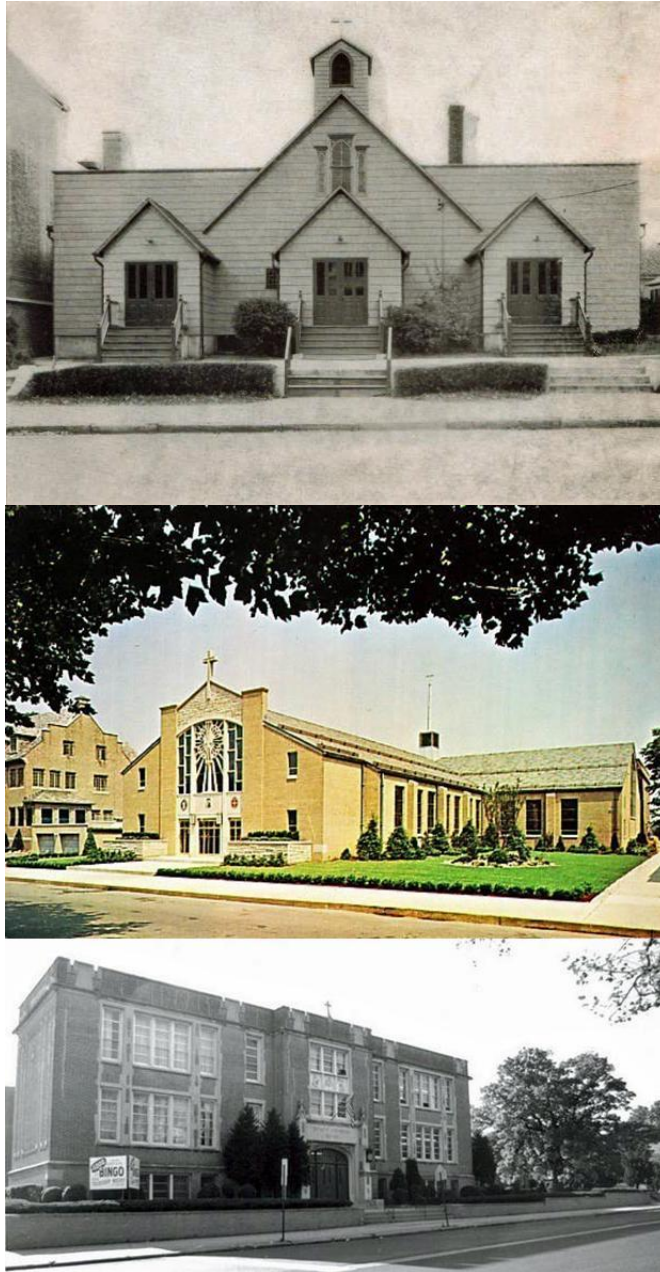
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Anshe Sfarad Synagogue on Third Ave.

Peterstown was also the location of a synagogue established at 472 Third Ave. at South Fifth St. This was the Anshe Sfarad Synagogue which was dedicated in 1914. The congregation lasted until closure in the 1970s. The building was sold and converted into a six-family apartment house seen on the right of this photo. The assets of the congregation were donated to the Jewish Educational Center (JEC) on Elmora Ave.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Blessed Sacrament Church and School on North Ave.

The first Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, shown in the top photo of 1947, was a wooden building erected in 1922 on North Ave. near the corner of Madison Ave. The school was built in 1927. The new church is shown in the middle photo. It opened in 1964 after the demolition of the original building. The new church is on the same property but faces Madison Ave. The school is now a public school.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Holy Rosary Church on Elizabeth Ave.

The parish of the Holy Rosary Church of Elizabeth was formed in 1886 and a wood frame church was dedicated in 1887. The top photo dates to about 1904 and shows the church and the school located on First Avenue. The bottom photo shows the modern brick Holy Rosary Church later built facing Elizabeth Avenue, opposite the original wooden church. Holy Rosary closed some years ago and became part of the nearby St. Michael's Church, now renamed Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael's Catholic Church. The Elizabeth Avenue church was demolished to make way for the Charles J. Hudson Elementary School 25 which opened in 1997.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



German M.E. Church on First Ave.

A German congregation worshipping in the Adelpian Academy, a private school on Elizabeth Avenue, organized the First German Methodist Episcopal Church in 1853. A simple wood frame church was built at Third Avenue and Centre Street in 1854. This building became the first home of the St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church in 1903. The German congregation moved to a larger church at the corner of First Avenue and Sixth Street, shown in the top postcard of 1909. At the time Elizabeth had four German churches.

In 1973 the church at the corner of First Avenue and Sixth Street became Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church, the only Portuguese parish in Union County at the time. Some years later this parish relocated to the

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now

former Sacred Heart Church at 403 Spring Street. The church at First Avenue and Sixth Street is well maintained and is now the Iglesia Bautista Christos Laucia Esperanza, representing the city's shift to a Hispanic population.



Former Scandinavian Lutheran Church on Atlantic St. ca. 1964. Photo Courtesy of Cathy Murphy.

Scandinavians were one of the smaller ethnic groups in Elizabeth but there were still sufficient numbers to support a church. The Scandinavian Lutheran Church was located at the southwest corner of Atlantic St. and Second Ave. according to the 1919 City Directory. Later names included the Bethlehem Norwegian Lutheran Church and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. References to this church disappear after the 1950s. The building was a Knights of Columbus hall when this photo was taken about 1964 or 1965. The building was demolished after 1970, leaving a vacant lot today.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Norwegian immigrants, who started settling in Elizabeth in the 1880's, organized the Scandinavian Lutheran Church April 3, 1891 in Hough's Chapel on Third Street. Meetings were held at Hough's, the Moravian Church at Seventh and Marshall Streets and the German Lutheran Church until the lot at 202 Atlantic St., corner of Second Ave., was purchased for \$100 in 1896. A chapel was dedicated on New Year's Day 1898. In 1928 the congregation moved to a new church at 863 Jersey Ave., at Standish St., renaming it Bethlehem Lutheran Church. In 1970 Bethlehem merged with St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, a Swedish congregation, to form United Lutheran Church, which closed about 2000.

The Atlantic Street property was later occupied by the Italian Pentecostal Church and the Knights of Columbus."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Church at 859 Martin St.

The building at 859 Martin St. has a long history as a church. It may date to the 1860s and has been used over the years as a church, chapel, and Sunday school. The 1919 City Directory listed it as the Swedish Lutheran Church. Today it is the Iglesia Bautista Hispano-Americana church, reflecting the growth of the Hispanic population of the city.

Arnold Samuelson: "The Norwegian Evangelical Free Church began meeting in the Atlantic Street chapel in 1930 and remained there until moving in 1941 to 859 Martin St., changing the name to Bethel Evangelical Free Church. It closed in 1949."



Shiloh Baptist Church on Murray St.

The Shiloh Baptist Church was organized in 1879 by the Negro Baptist Congregations of New Jersey. Between 1880 and 1895, the congregation attended services first in Collett's Hall on East Broad Street and then in the Elizabeth Avenue Methodist Church. Property at 95 Murray St. was purchased in 1894 and a simple frame church was built. It was replaced in 1923 by a larger church that remains today.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



African-American Cleric ca. 1890

Photographer T.F. McCarty, who had a studio on Broad St. in the 1890s and possibly earlier, took this portrait photo of a young African-American cleric. He is unnamed. Perhaps he was associated with one of the early African-American churches in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Protest at Mt. Teman AME Church on South Union St. 1963

In 1963 black residents protested discriminatory hiring practices at the construction of the Union County Courthouse Annex. The photo shows pickets at the Mount Teman AME Church at 16-18 South Union St., now called Elizabethtown Plaza. The church roots date to 1830 with the congregation meeting at several locations around the city until building the South Union St. church. The church moved to a new building at 160 Madison Ave in 1967.



Mt. Teman AME Church Today on Madison Ave.

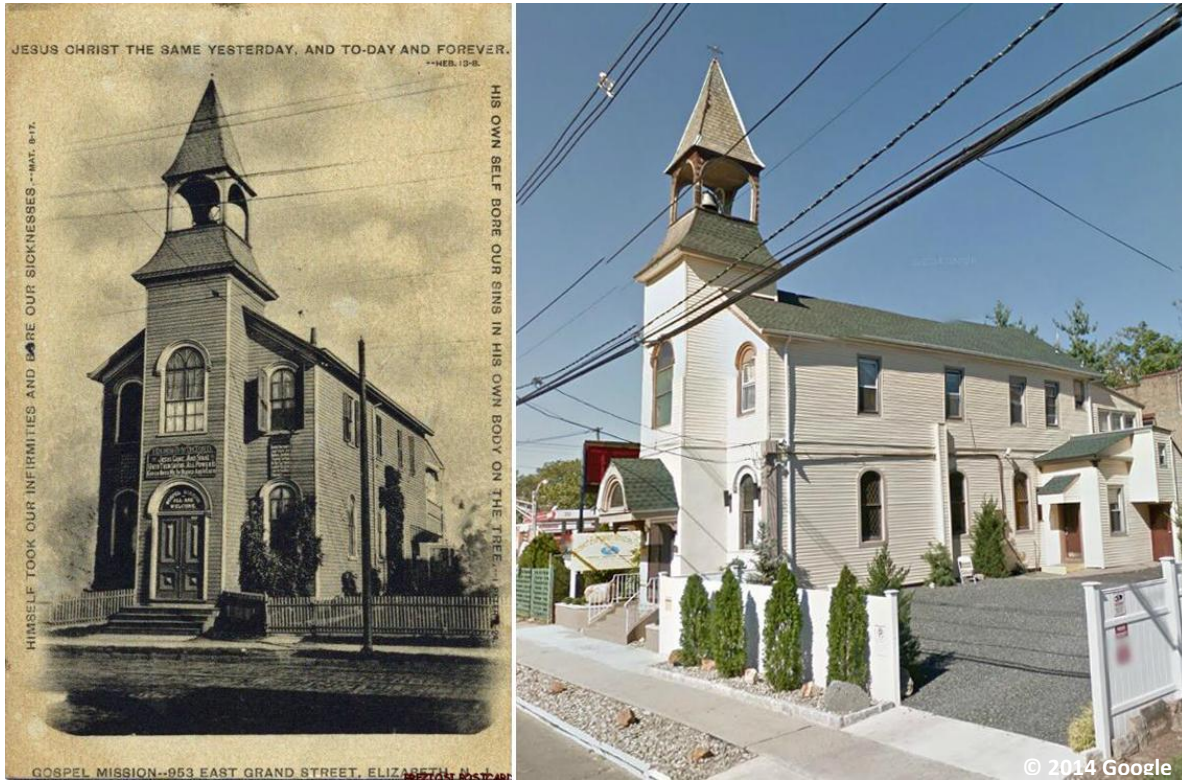
Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



First Assembly of God Church on South Broad St.

The First Assembly of God Church, 645 South Broad St., was established in 1914 as a "House of prayer for all nations." It was originally named First Pentecostal Church, started by German Lutherans. All the original records of the church are in German. Later, the church welcomed newcomers from Poland and it became a bilingual German-Polish church. Still later, the church brought in a Norwegian pastor who did not speak either German or Polish, and the church became an English-speaking congregation.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Gospel Mission on East Grand St.

There were several mission churches in Elizabeth in the late 19th century, including the Gospel Mission shown in this 1904 postcard. These churches served residents looking for a less structured approach to religion.

I would like to thank Frank Greenagel for contributing a statement from Paul Schopp, an historian for Camden County, NJ:

"The building dates to sometime between 1901 and 1903. It was constructed as the Mount Zion Mission by members of the First Church of Christ Scientist. The congregation associated with the edifice were known as 'Faith Curists'. The second floor actually served as a residential space and the rear section of the ground floor provided storage space. They held no services on Sunday; rather, they had a sewing school for children and held services in the evening and on Tuesday afternoons. A "Mr. Bennett" served as the local pastor and anytime he inserted notices in the newspapers, he always referred to the building as a 'Gospel Mission'."

The wood frame building survives today at 953 East Grand Street, near Spring St., as the Outreach Evangelism Ministries Church led by pastor Bishop Pierre M. Paul. In addition to English, French and Spanish are spoken there, reflecting the Haitian and Hispanic community.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Joseph's Church on Division St.

The St. Joseph R. C. Church at 118 Division St. was one of the smallest Catholic churches in the city, established to serve the Slavic population. This building dates to at least 1903 when it was known as St. Andrew's Chapel. By 1919 it had become St. Joseph's Church.

The church closed in 1983 and became the St. Joseph Social Service Center, providing food, shelter, job counseling and other assistance to the poor and homeless.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church on Magie Ave.

The Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1911 at 508 Magie Ave. at Stiles St.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Epworth closed about two years ago. From the signage, the New Life Worship Center seems to be the primary user."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Hillside Road

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church has stood at the corner of Hillside and Colonia Roads since 1927 or earlier. The beautiful Tudor Style church was designed by architect Robert C. Edwards of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elmora Presbyterian Church on Magie Ave.

The Elmora Presbyterian Church building was dedicated in 1936. The church traces its history to the First German Presbyterian Church on Third St. and Broadway, built in 1878.

The Elmora Presbyterian Church closed in 2004. The building was then used by the Arabic Assembly of God.

Arnold Samuelsen: "Today the building is the Muslim Community Center of Union County, which formerly rented space in the old School 10 building at 60 Prince St."

Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now



Elmora Hebrew Center on West End Ave.

Many churches in the city have closed, merged or been sold to different religious groups over the years. The demographic changes in the city are a major factor in these transitions. The Elmora Hebrew Center, a landmark at 420 West End Ave, since it was built in 1947, closed in 2010 due to the decline of the Conservative congregation from 250 to 50 families. The building was sold to the Iglesia Pentecostal Unida Latinoamericana. Pentecostal churches are flourishing in Elizabeth due to the growth of the Hispanic population.

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